

**Manitoba  
Conservation  
Conservation  
Manitoba**

**Annual Report  
2007-2008**

**Rapport annuel  
2007-2008**

**Manitoba** 





**MINISTER OF CONSERVATION**

Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA  
R3C 0V8

The Honourable John Harvard, P.C., O.M.  
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba  
Room 235 Legislative Building  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008.

The report details the Department's many accomplishments and activities as we fulfill our mandate of protecting the environment while sustaining and conserving the abundant natural resources we enjoy as Manitobans.

The Department serves Manitobans and its visitors throughout our vast province and within our diverse ecosystems. We work together with the public to meet the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development.

The staff of Manitoba Conservation is dedicated to providing effective services in our parks, communities and rural and northern areas and I hope the detailed information contained in this Annual Report sheds some light on the results of our programming and the many important related activities that take place on an ongoing basis around the Province.

Respectfully submitted,



Stan Struthers  
Minister of Conservation





The Honourable Stan Struthers  
Minister of Conservation  
330 Legislative Building  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008.

The Department is committed to delivering quality programs and services to protect our environment and manage natural resources in a sustainable way, considering various community interests. The Annual Report provides an overview of the various programs and activities carried out in the 2007/08 fiscal year, highlighting key results that include:

- In 2007, the Polar Bear Alert Program continued generating both media and public attention.
- The designation of Little Limestone Lake as a Provincial Park Reserve with the support of Mosakahiken Cree Nation and the mining sector.
- Continued reforestation efforts with 547,700 spruce seedlings planted on 302 hectares of Crown Land in the Mountain Forest section.
- The new *Forest Health Protection Act*, developed to protect Manitoba's urban, rural and commercial forests from invasive pests, received royal assent in the fall of 2007.
- Manitoba's Tire Stewardship program was transitioned to Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM) an industry-led organization.

- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch, in consultation with the municipalities around Winnipeg, developed a Near-Urban Wildlife Strategy to address human safety and property damage concerns as well as to maintain and expand hunting opportunities in the near-urban area.

Many more highlights and details are contained in the attached report on the Department's operations, activities and results for the 2007/08 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Cook".

Don Cook  
Deputy Minister

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**MANITOBA  
CONSERVATION  
ORGANIZATION CHART  
AS OF APRIL 1, 2008**

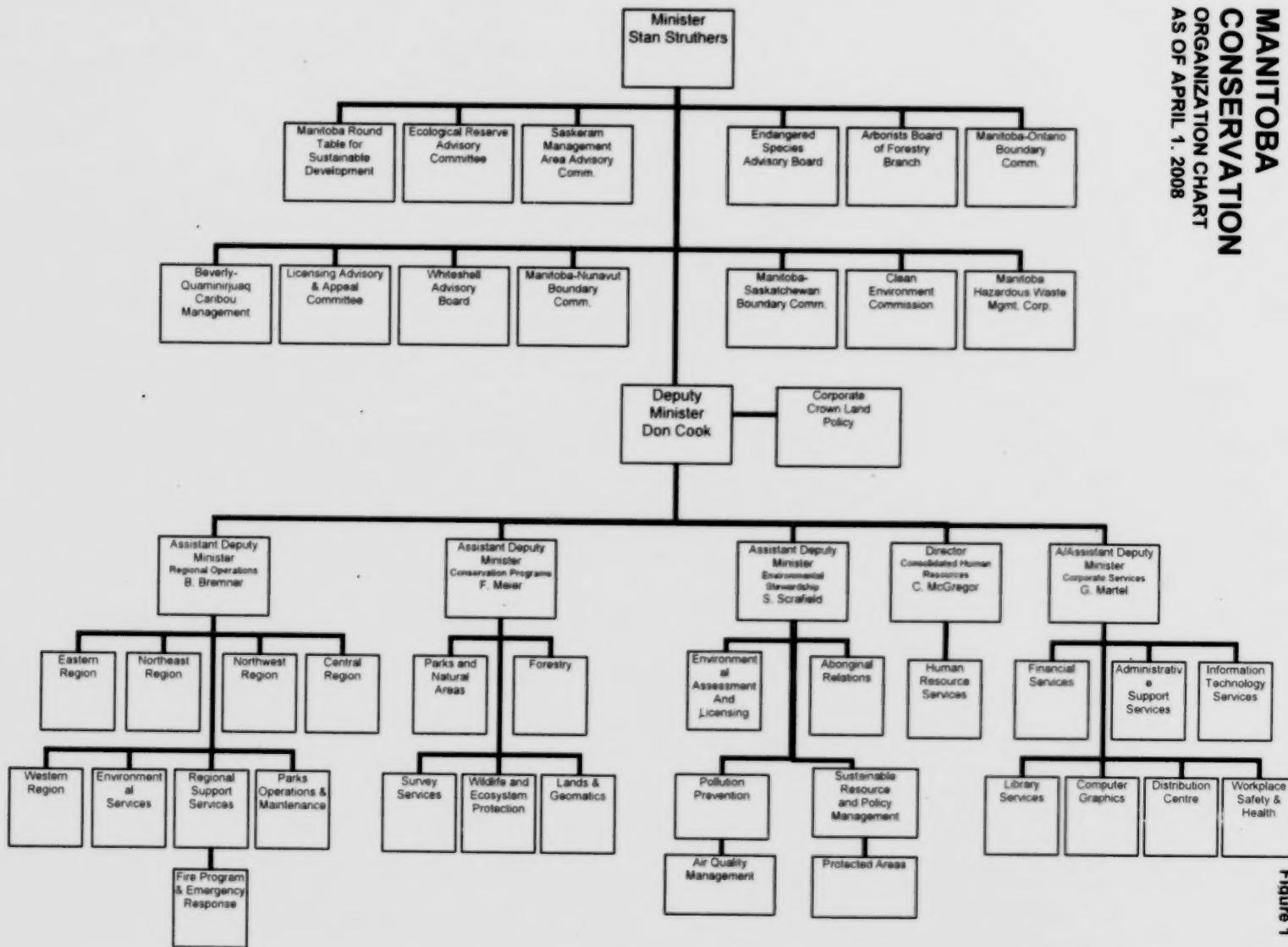


Figure 1

# CONSERVATION MANITOBA

## ORGANIGRAMME

En vigueur 1ER Avril 1, 2008

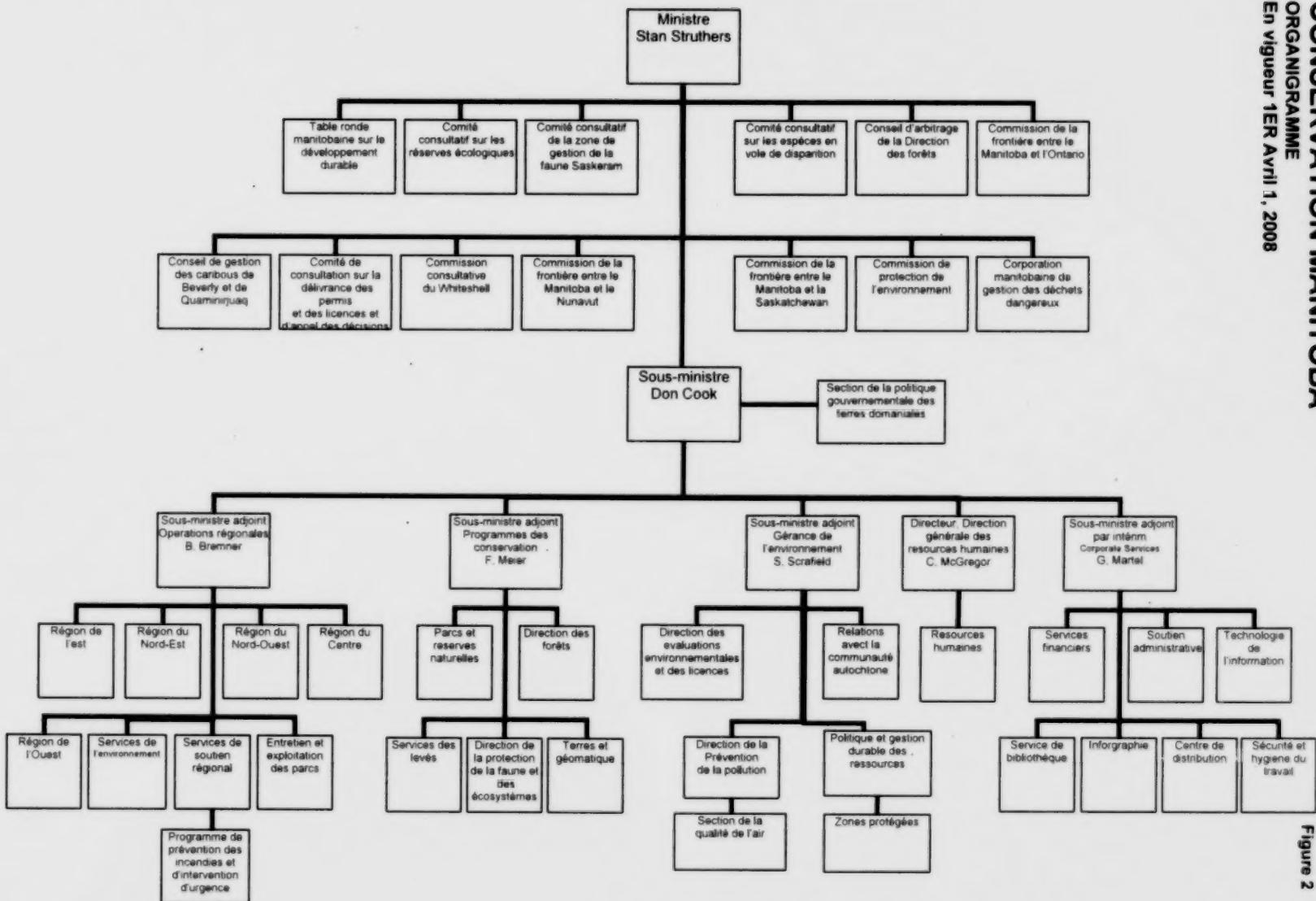


Figure 2

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Regional Operations

In 2007/08, 78 seasonal Park Patrol Officers and Assistant Resource Officers undertook a new 100-hour training course approved by Manitoba Justice and delivered by the Northwest Law Enforcement Academy. Twenty Environment Officers also undertook a 40-hour basic enforcement course delivered by the Academy.

A covert investigation relating to the illegal sale of fish in the Winnipeg area that concluded in 2007 was successfully prosecuted in the courts. Numerous charges against two individuals resulted in \$8,500.00 in fines and surcharges.

One individual was successfully prosecuted for arson under the Criminal Code for charges laid in relation to a 2003 wildfire investigation. In order to gather sufficient evidence to successfully prosecute, this investigation was underway for three years.

185 Initial Attack Crew Members (Type I) were trained and certified or recertified to Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) Exchange Standards (included S-100, Skills, and Hover Exit Certification).

The Emergency Response program received over 2,850 calls to the emergency response 24-hour line. Of these, 479 were handled directly by the Department's Emergency Response Team and/or Regional personnel. The remaining calls were not within the Department's mandate and were directed to the appropriate outside agency for action.

49 polar bears were captured under the Polar Bear Alert Program in fall 2007, which was the lowest number handled in the past ten years. 247 polar bear occurrences were reported, with November being the busiest month (45% of the reported occurrences). The Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill continues to generate high media interest, with staff providing assistance to 10 media groups reporting on the program.

Two coastal polar bear surveys were completed in 2007. A July survey done after little ice remains in Hudson Bay revealed 133 polar bears, and a September survey showed 138 polar bears. The distribution of the polar bears along the coastline was similar for both surveys, indicating little movement during the ice free period. Staff also assisted Canadian Wildlife Service staff in carrying out an experimental survey designed to provide a population estimate for the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation of polar bears.

Phase one of the Stoney Point road to access Opaskwayak Cree Nation Reserve Land within Clearwater Lake Provincial Park was completed following meetings with representatives of the Cree Nation.

On June 27, 2007 a severe windstorm damaged the forest in the northern areas of Whiteshell Provincial Park. An area of 24,000 ha, or an area almost half the size of the city of Winnipeg, was impacted. Damage to the forest resource was estimated at one million cubic meters of softwood and hardwood. A regional program was developed to salvage approximately 500,000 cubic meters of accessible wood.

The "Bears and Bees" project in the Ethelbert area continues. Four outfitters maintain approximately 20 electric fences around chronic bee-yard depredation sites to assist Manitoba's largest honey producer. Nuisance bear harvest is significantly reduced and no fences were breached by bears.

547,700 spruce seedlings were planted on 302 hectares of Crown Land in the Mountain Forest section. 517 Manure Management Plans were processed and registered. The department conducted audits on approximately 1% of the plans.

As part of the new Environmental Remediation Program, the Department signed a memorandum of understanding with the Water Services Board to provide for half of the costs of a \$4.2 million alternate water supply for Grosse Isle that will address historical environmental impacts.

The Department signed a memorandum of understanding with the City of Brandon for remediation of the former Brandon Scrap site at First Street, Pacific Avenue, and Rosser Avenue.

## **Survey Services**

Survey Services continued to participate in a long-term, federal-provincial initiative to modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System, which will establish a new geoid-based datum to eventually replace the Mean Sea Level datum for vertical referencing. Staff gave a presentation on Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System to the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of Manitoba.

The Branch carried out work on 144 legal survey projects during the fiscal year for cottage subdivisions, road right-of-ways, water control works, northern airport sites, northern ferry landings and aboriginal compensatory lands.

Staff initiated a cadastral (property parcel) mapping project for Manitoba Hydro covering the Pointe du Bois Resource Management Area

## **Parks & Natural Areas**

A new made-in-Manitoba Parks Reservation System deployed in 2006 won the 2007 Project Management Institute (Manitoba) award; the 2007 Manitoba Service Excellence Team Award and was a 2007 Canadian Innovation and Productivity Award (CIPA) Finalist.

Little Limestone Lake was designated a Provincial Park Reserve with the support of Mosakahiken Cree Nations and the mining sector. The Park Reserve was then renewed from its original six month designation to a five year designation and consultations began with the Cree Nation on a process to work towards permanent designation of this protected area.

The Red River was formally designated as a member of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System in the summer of 2007, bringing the number of Canadian Heritage Rivers in Manitoba to four: Red, Hayes, Seal and Bloodvein.

The Parks District Service Fees System review was initiated through consultation with cottagers and commercial operators that are located in provincial parks.

Enhancement of the Provincial Camping Initiative continued, with 62 new campsites, 23 improved campsites, two new Family Vacation Cabins, and four new yurts made available to Manitobans. New "green" buildings were constructed for the Birds Hill campground office and the West Hawk Lake shower building.

## **Forestry**

A new *Forest Health Protection Act* developed to protect Manitoba's urban, rural and commercial forests from invasive pests received royal assent in the fall of 2007. The new Act helps the Province prevent the importation of forest pests into Manitoba and enables controls and measures to eradicate infestations if they occur.

The Forest Management Section implemented a new provincial timber pricing system on January 1, 2008. The new system establishes monthly timber dues rates based upon the commodity values of softwood lumber, newsprint, oriented strand board and kraft forest products.

The Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis section calculated a total volume wood supply for the Pineland Forest Section, Whiteshell Provincial Park and the Whiteshell Provincial Forest in southeast Manitoba. Photo interpretation of a new forest inventory for Forest Management Unit 12 in western Manitoba and the transfer of data into a Geographic Information System were also completed.

The Sustainable Forestry Unit participated in the acquisition of new federal-provincial program funding for Forintek and FPInnovations. Forintek employs industry advisors to assist in industry diversification and competitiveness. FPInnovations established a new liaison officer to help transfer research knowledge regarding harvesting of wood, transportation and forest road construction, and silviculture.

## **Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection**

The demand for foreign resident hunting licences continued to be strong. Approximately 5,350 game bird, 2,100 bear, 1,250 deer, 250 caribou, and 180 moose licences were purchased in 2007.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch, in consultation with the municipalities around Winnipeg, developed a Near-Urban Wildlife Strategy to address human safety and property damage concerns, as well as to maintain and expand hunting opportunities in the near-urban area. This is an ongoing program. Future emphasis will be directed at managing expanding wildlife populations and related human/wildlife conflicts in the urban-agricultural setting around Winnipeg.

The Department continued its participation in the Action Plan for Bovine Tuberculosis Management in Manitoba and maintained surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch co-operated with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) Centre in monitoring migratory waterfowl for the presence of avian influenza. More than 1,000 hunter shot waterfowl were sampled and no highly pathogenic avian influenza was detected.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch assisted in the creation of the Manitoba Game Bird Hunting Partnership with non-government organizations to address Provincial game bird issues.

Manitoba participated with Environment Canada and other provincial and territorial representatives as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the development of a document on the identification of critical habitat for boreal woodland caribou.

The report, Concentrations of Metals and Other Elements in Surface Soils of Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan, was released in July 2007. The results of this study, conducted in 2006, indicated that several metals related to smelter emissions (e.g. arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and selenium) may be present in the surface soils of Flin Flon and Creighton at high enough concentrations and spatial extent to be a concern in terms of risk to human health. Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting is in the process of conducting a detailed human health risk assessment for the area.

Additional lands were purchased for the Proven Lake Heritage Marsh in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada and The Nature Conservancy of Canada. The newly acquired property will be used for the development of wildlife viewing facilities.

A research program in the Summerberry Heritage Marsh was launched in co-operation with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Delta Marsh Research Station (University of Manitoba). Studies will be undertaken to determine the reasons for a decline in muskrat numbers in the marsh and develop management strategies to better improve the productivity of the wetlands for a variety of wildlife.

Funding from Wildlife Habitat Canada enabled the purchase of three additional parcels of land to add to the Delta Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA), in co-operation with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.

In 2007/08, \$760,170 in federal funding was received for all Habitat Stewardship Program projects in Manitoba. Matching funds and in-kind contributions totaling \$1,616,638 were provided by the Province, conservation agencies, industry and community groups in support of these projects.

In 2007/08, staff of the Conservation Data Centre made the first ever collection of Gattinger's Agalinis (*Agalinis gattingeri*) in Manitoba. Prior to this discovery, the only other known locations of Gattinger's Agalinis in Canada were in southern Ontario. Gattinger's Agalinis is listed as endangered in Canada under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

2007 was a particularly productive year for the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) in Manitoba. New volunteers were recruited for several vacant routes, some existing participants took on additional routes, and weather was co-operative during much of the survey period. These factors combined to produce a record number of routes (61) and observers (37) and a total of 230 species recorded along BBS routes in Manitoba during 2007.

A new educational resource on Manitoba's only lizard, the prairie skink, was created by NatureNorth ([www.naturenorth.com](http://www.naturenorth.com)), with financial and in-kind assistance from Manitoba Conservation.

## **Sustainable Resource and Policy Management**

The Branch led the development of a five-year agreement and annual work plan with the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

The Branch completed the annual updating for 2008 of "Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans" report, which was then published and distributed.

Under the Protected Areas Initiative a memorandum of understanding was signed with the City of Winnipeg to identify areas of mutual interest and opportunities for collaboration in conservation activities, and a \$300,000 grant was awarded to The Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of their "Campaign for Conservation". The Province also established the Little Limestone and Duff Roblin Park Reserves, expanded the Beaudry and Whitemouth Provincial Parks, and converted a portion of Nopiming Provincial Park to backcountry land use category, which resulted in 4,684 hectares of new protected areas.

## **Environmental Assessment and Licensing**

The Branch led the implementation of the Operators, Water and Wastewater Facility Regulation throughout the fiscal year. The program is fully operational and will continue to be a high priority for the Branch in 2008/09.

The Branch administered *The Environment Act* transparently and consistently. Over 100 Environment Act licences were issued and/or altered in 2007/08 in a timely manner, providing the opportunity for public involvement in the environmental assessment process. Licence conditions continue to ensure that the environment is protected for present and future Manitobans.

## **Pollution Prevention**

The Branch facilitated the transition of Manitoba's tire stewardship program to Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM), an industry-led organization. The new program is intended to ensure the environmental and economic sustainability of Manitoba's scrap tire recycling program.

# ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Administration and Finance Division provides executive management of programs and management services, including financial, human resource, information technology, and administrative support.

## Minister's Salary

The Minister's salary provides the Minister with additional compensation to which an individual appointed to Executive Council is entitled.

**Table AF.1**

### 12.1(a) Minister's Salary

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08		Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)			
Salaries and Employee Benefits	42.1	1.00	31.0		11.1	
<b>Total 12.1(a)</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>31.0</b>		<b>11.1</b>	

## Executive Support

This area comprises support staff in the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Conservation.

The purpose of Executive Support is to develop, implement and oversee policies and programs that are designed to attain, over the long term, the goals set in the Department's vision and mission statements; advise the Minister on matters relating to the Department; provide policy direction for departmental programs; coordinate departmental communications, activities, and initiatives; and provide administrative support for the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister.

**Table AF.2**

### 12.1(b) Executive Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08		Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)			
Salaries and Employee Benefits	578.1	10.00	623.2		(45.1)	
Other Expenditures	112.6		185.6		(73.0)	
<b>Total 12.1(b)</b>	<b>690.7</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>808.8</b>		<b>(118.1)</b>	

# Corporate Services

Corporate Services Division provides shared services for the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship, including administrative; financial; safety, health and risk management; equipment warehousing; library and public information services; and information technology services. Human Resource services are also provided through a service shared with other departments.

Administrative services include fleet vehicle coordination, office accommodation and parking administration, environmental impact file searches, records management, coordination of departmental French language services, and compliance with *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The Safety, Health and Risk Management section provides leadership, direction and support to departmental staff and senior management on compliance with recognized standards in these areas through policies, monitoring and training.

The Conservation and Environment Library supports access to print and electronic specialized information resources for Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and the public. Interlibrary loans are coordinated with other Manitoba libraries and educational institutions. Current information related to the mandates of each partner organization is made available to staff and to the public.

The departmental warehouse is the equipment/supply storage and mobilization point for branches and the Fire Operations Centre. In emergencies, such as fire and flood, the warehouse becomes the logistical support base for all equipment.

## **Key Results Achieved:**

In the 2007 calendar year, 1,495 requests for information were received under *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The Department commenced the establishment of a website to address availability and communication of information most requested under *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

In 2007/08, the library responded to over 2,800 inquiries for information.

The Department continues to implement its French Language Services Plan to reflect current operations and in keeping with the *Chartier Report* on French Language Services. Translation of documents and the website continues. The Department continues to participate in the Bilingual Service Centres.

A total of 685 environmental file searches on listed properties within the province of Manitoba were completed, generating revenue of \$64,704.

The Safety, Health and Risk Management unit completed work on a comprehensive policy manual that was distributed in July 2007. Three additional staff were hired in the Central, East and Northern regions to provide safety, health and risk management services in these regions.

**Table AF.3**  
**12.1(c) Corporate Services**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>		<b>Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$ (000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$ (000)</b>		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	939.7	19.00	1,141.9	(202.2)	1.
Other Expenditures	1,507.5		1,504.3	3.2	
<b>Total 12.1(c)</b>	<b>2,447.2</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>2,646.2</b>	<b>(199.0)</b>	

1. Under expenditure in salaries and employee benefits is due to vacant positions.

## Financial Services

The Financial Services Branch develops, communicates, monitors and evaluates departmental financial policies, systems, processes and procedures to ensure the effective, efficient and economical operation of departmental financial functions in compliance with requirements of the Department, Treasury Board, Department of Finance, the Office of the Auditor General, and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

### Key Results Achieved:

The Branch provided financial support and leadership to all branches, regions, and business units of the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship, including revenue management, accounts payable and accounting services support, financial analysis and reporting, capital asset financial planning, and comptrollership activities.

Licensing Section managed a province-wide network of 824 private and 146 departmental licence vendors through which convenient access was provided to the public for angling, hunting, migratory waterfowl, trapping, fur dealer, park vehicle entry, camping, arborist and various other licences and permits. For the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008, Licensing Section recorded 716,505 transactions with net revenue of \$13,681,735. Vendor activity for the same period included 54 new appointments, 62 discontinuances, 4 suspensions, and 23 reinstatements. A total of 760 private vendors are located in rural areas.

Draws for Manitoba residents are conducted each year to allocate hunting opportunities for elk and moose in areas of limited availability. The 2007 annual priority licence draw was completed with 7,743 applicants and 3,781 licences awarded.

The Public Information section provided information to the public regarding the numerous programs delivered by the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship, including the following requests for information and assistance in 2007/08:

- 36,928 direct telephone requests to the Information Officers.
- 35,509 calls were received by the automated Public Information Line, of which 10,450 were handled directly by the line.
- 71,153 in person requests.
- 1,052 requests through the Internet.
- 5,217 information packages mailed.

**Table AF.4**  
**12.1(d) Financial Services**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Over/(Under)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$ (000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$ (000)</b>	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,246.3	26.33	1,302.7	(56.4)
Other Expenditures	422.2		396.6	25.6
<b>Total 12.1(d)</b>	<b>1,668.5</b>	<b>26.33</b>	<b>1,699.3</b>	<b>(30.8)</b>

## **Human Resource Services**

### **Key Results Achieved:**

#### **Staffing**

- Staffing activity included 983 appointments, including competitions; direct appointments; Green Team; STEP; term extensions; and departmental hires and recalls. Guidance and advice were provided on departmental employee staffing, which has been delegated to managers.
- Provided Human Resource services to Pineland Forest Nursery Special Operating Agency.
- Recruitment and Selection Training Workshops were provided, including:
  - 2 days of workshops held in spring of 2007
    - Certification of Selection Board Members, Selection Board Chairperson and refresher training for all levels of staff and management
  - 7 days of workshops held in various location throughout the province over two-month period
    - 135 Candidates were trained and 12 staff were certified with delegation to Chair Departmental competitions, subject to HR audit

#### **Labour/Employee Relations**

- Provided guidance and advice to management in the completion of 106 labour relations cases, including appropriate discipline and negotiating settlements to resolve issues before the formal grievance stage. Twenty-two formal grievances and selection appeals were completed.

#### **Classification**

- Classification activity included the completion of 113 position classification reviews and one classification appeal.
- Completed the review of the Resource Technician series.

#### **Pay and Benefits**

- Processed pay and benefits for more than 2,207 active and inactive staff.
- Processed T4s for approximately 1,000 Emergency Fire Fighters.
- Provided guidance and advice on pay administration issues for the department of Conservation, Pineland Forest Nursery and Emergency Fire Fighters.

#### **Employment Equity**

- Employment Equity continues to be a consideration in all staffing activities.
- Participated in Career Fairs.

- Liaised with Schools and organizations to enhance awareness of employment opportunities with Manitoba Conservation.

#### **Renewal Initiatives**

- Participated in the following Civil Service Commission program:
  - Aboriginal Management Development Program.
  - Career Gateway Program.
  - Women's Leadership Program and Leadership Development Initiative.

**Table AF.5**  
**Employment Equity Representation**

Fiscal Year	Total		Male		Female		Aboriginal		Persons w/ Disability		Visible Minority	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>2007/08</b>	1840	100	1129	61.4	711	38.6	335	18.2	35	1.9	29	1.6

The above data, as at March 31, 2008, includes active and inactive, regular, term, departmental, and casual employees for Manitoba Conservation and Pineland Forest Nursery.

**Table AF.6**  
**12.1(e) Human Resource Services**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08 \$(000)	FTE	Estimate 2007/08 \$(000)	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,028.7	19.00	1,307.7	(279.0)	1.
Other Expenditures	160.1		163.6	(3.5)	
<b>Total 12.1(e)</b>	<b>1,188.8</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>1,471.3</b>	<b>(282.5)</b>	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to lower requirements for backfill of seasonal positions as a result of work related injury.

## Information Technology Services

The Branch provides internal information technology services and expertise, including technology and business consulting, systems analysis, design, implementation, corporate database management, and development and management of a yearly department-wide information technology systems plan. The Branch develops and maintains the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) spatial data warehouse.

### Key Results Achieved:

Support and development enhancements to several business applications continued in 2007/08, including custom web site development for the cottage lot draw program, as well as work on the Water Licensing application, the Environment Management System, the Vendor Accounting System, the Headquarters Enforcement System, the Big Game Management System, the License Advisory Committee System, the Canada Map Sales web site, the water well drilling management application, and several other departmental business applications.

The Branch assisted in the development of enhancements to the new Parks Reservation System to expand its operational capabilities, deployed additional computers in 10 campground offices, and installed new automated check-in wireless devices in several others.

Enhancements to the Manitoba Land Initiative data warehouse were completed in 2007/08. The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS data and related databases and meta-data with interactive mapping tools and is available online to the general public via the Internet. A new interactive map server was configured to provide seamless access of data for viewing and product downloading. A new web interface was also developed in conjunction with the Federal Government Geo-Connections to provide for a meta data search capability of Manitoba data through the federal web portal.

The Branch continued development of additional Web pages to meet the needs of the public while enhancing the departmental site and applying government-wide standards and templates.

**Table AF.7  
12.1(f) Information Technology Services**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,246.8	8.00	1,193.0	53.8	
Other Expenditures	86.5		118.3	(31.8)	
<b>Total 12.1(f)</b>	<b>1,333.5</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>1,311.3</b>	<b>22.0</b>	

## Clean Environment Commission

Under *The Environment Act*, The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) provides a mechanism through which the public can participate in environmental decision making. The Commission conducts public reviews and hearings into matters of environmental concern and provides advice and recommendations to the Minister. The Commission, while reporting directly to the Minister, is independent of the Department.

The Commission issues its own Annual Report with information on its mandate and operations. Copies can be obtained from the CEC at 305 – 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8. The CEC can be contacted at 204-945-0594 or toll free at 1-800-597-3556 or by fax at 204-945-0090. The CEC's web site is [www.cecmanitoba.ca](http://www.cecmanitoba.ca).

**Table AF.8**  
**12.1(g) Clean Environment Commission**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual	Estimate		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	2007/08	2007/08	\$ (000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	276.1	3.00	267.0	9.1	
Other Expenditures	603.1		342.7	260.4	1.
<b>Total 12.1(g)</b>	<b>879.2</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>609.7</b>	<b>269.5</b>	

1. Over expenditure is due to increased operating costs related to the hog industry review hearings.

# Support Services

## Computer Graphics

The unit provides Geographic Information System (GIS), graphic design and Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CAD) services to Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. The GIS component of Computer Graphics is responsible for providing expertise in the creation of spatial data and spatial data analyses, and in the preparation of customized geo-referenced maps. The Graphic Design component produces informational material required for internally supporting various programs, policies, and initiatives. Specialized CAD services include preparation of engineering plans for capital works and infrastructure maintenance projects.

### Key Results Achieved:

Provided design, layout and illustration services to all program areas through publication of several booklets and brochures, including:

- Junior Naturalist & Park Explorer Booklets
- Parks Passport Program
- Protected Areas Initiative Booklet
- Red River Heritage Posters
- Interprovincial Park Management Plan
- 20-year Forest Management Plan
- Integrated Watershed Management Plan

Prepared display boards, posters, promotional and presentation material, such as an Integrated Water Management Identity Package, Year of the Frog Poster, Parks promotional pieces, weather safety brochure, forest health brochures and code booklets, Protected Areas Initiative announcement displays and handouts, and promotional artwork for the Fisheries Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship.

Assisted in the production of all summer, winter and seasonal-use maps for the new Parks Reservation System.

Designed and produced signage and permits for Parks campgrounds.

Designed various logos and other miscellaneous promotional material, such as Park Explorer Logo, Park Interpretation Logo, Parks – Life is Great Outdoors Logo, Grand Beach Piping Plover sign, and Park Interpreter Logo.

Provided Geographic System Support to staff within Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship as well as mapping and analysis support to staff. Provided project management to Water Stewardship for the development of the Management and Planning System (MAPS) application as well as the management and creation of digital elevation models for Morden, Rivers and Rahls Island. Work continued on the creation of the National Hydro Network for Manitoba in co-operation with Natural Resources Canada. Maintained the digital spatial data warehouse for all Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship users of GIS.

**Table CS.1**  
**12.2(a) Computer Graphics**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>		<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>		<b>Variance Over/(Under) \$ (000)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$ (000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$ (000)</b>			
Salaries and Employee Benefits	405.2	6.50	364.0		41.2	
Other Expenditures	32.7		33.7		(1.0)	
<b>Total 12.2(a)</b>	<b>437.9</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>397.7</b>		<b>40.2</b>	

## **Survey Services**

The Branch administers and enforces *The Surveys Act* (Part II) and *The Survey of Mining Claims Regulation*, approves Plans of Survey for disposition of land under *The Crown Lands Act*, *The Gas Pipe Line Act* and *The Mineral Disposition and Mineral Lease Regulation* (*The Mines and Minerals Act*). The Branch represents Manitoba on matters related to provincial boundaries, provides survey services to other departments, and maintains the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network and Land Survey System. Public benefits include a secure process for conveyance and reservation of Crown land and rights therein, an expeditious survey service for acquisition and disposition of land, a survey system for determining property boundaries, and a geodetic survey network for spatial referencing of land-related information.

### **Land Survey System Program**

The program restores survey monuments of the Provincial Land Survey system, an infrastructure for land ownership, to ensure a strong cadastral (property parcel) framework for land conveyance and economic activities. It restores survey monuments and maintains survey documents concerning provincial boundaries. The program provides instructions to Manitoba Land Surveyors on the survey of Crown lands, examines their survey returns, approves their plans of survey, and operates a Survey Information Centre. The Survey Information Centre maintains cadastral and geodetic survey information dating back to 1870 and provides such information to industry, government departments and agencies, and the general public.

#### **Key Results Achieved:**

Monuments restored in the township and parish systems of survey	69
Sets of survey instructions issued	16
Plans of survey examined	39
Plans of survey tentatively approved	32
Plans of survey approved	33
Plans of survey filed in the survey information centre	26
Request for survey information responded	156
Marker posts provided at no charge to private land surveyors for the identification and protection of survey monuments of the township system of survey	60

### **Manitoba Spatial Reference Network Program**

The program maintains a network of survey monuments whose positions (latitude, longitude and elevation) have been determined. Disciplines such as civil and geotechnical engineering, resource

management, and legal surveying use this network to determine horizontal position and vertical elevation of natural and man-made features and related information. This network is essential to ensure compatibility of all surveying, mapping, navigation, and other spatial information and to permit seamless and economic exchange and merge of such information. The Manitoba Spatial Reference Network, which includes 230 primary and approximately 10,000 secondary control-survey stations, is integral to Canadian Spatial Reference System (CSRS), contributing to a reliable national infrastructure for referencing spatial information.

#### **Key Results Achieved:**

The Branch continued participation on the Canadian Geodetic Reference System Committee (CGRSC) of the Canadian Council on Geomatics. CGRSC is a federal-provincial working committee that is mandated to plan and coordinate the maintenance and improvement of the geodetic spatial reference system in Canada. The committee, amongst other activities, continued work on two major initiatives; i.e., the Canada-wide Differential GPS Service (CDGPS) and Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System.

The Canada-wide Differential GPS Service is a satellite-based, real-time differential GPS service designed to provide reliable GPS positional corrections. The system provides a free nation-wide service that will benefit all GPS users by improving the standardization of spatial data collection and the positional accuracy of spatial information. For users with a CDGPS receiver, it provides sub-metre to two metre positional accuracy throughout the Canadian landmass. It is suitable for natural resource management, environmental monitoring, agriculture, marine, mineral exploration, facilities management, precision farming, resource management, GIS and mapping, and navigation applications. For more information, visit the CDGPS web-site at <http://www.cdgps.com>.

Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System is a long-term initiative that will establish a new geoid-based datum to eventually replace the Mean Sea Level datum for vertical referencing. The new datum, scheduled for implementation by 2010, will offer numerous advantages over the current reference datum. It will be compatible with international standards, enable cost-savings through the use of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technologies such as the GPS, be accessible at any point in Canada, and will not be hindered by the deterioration of current benchmarks. In 2007/08 Natural Resources Canada conducted field observations and testing to confirm that the current geoid model (CGG2005) is of an adequate density and quality for the proposed for the new vertical datum. For more information, visit the Canadian Spatial Reference System website at [http://www.geod.nrcan.gc.ca/hm/docs\\_e.php](http://www.geod.nrcan.gc.ca/hm/docs_e.php).

Staff gave a presentation on Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System to the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of Manitoba.

Staff provide a training seminar on recreational grade GPS receivers, coordinates and navigation to Manitoba Conservation staff.

#### **Survey Services Program**

The program provides legal and control surveys and cadastral (property parcel) mapping services under cost recovery to provincial government departments and agencies for the acquisition and disposition of land, construction and maintenance of public works, and spatial referencing of land-related features and information. Clients include:

- Manitoba Conservation (Regional Operations, Lands & Geomatics Branch, Parks & Natural Areas Branch, and Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch)
- Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (Regional Operations, Floodway Authority, Crown Land and Property Agency, Northern Airports and Marine Branch, Water Control and Structures Branch, and Highway Engineering Branch)
- Water Stewardship (Water Control Systems Management Branch)

- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (Agreements Management Branch and Local Government Development Division)
- Science, Technology, Energy and Mines (Mines Branch and Petroleum Branch)
- Intergovernmental Affairs (Community Planning Services Branch)

Products and services include:

- Legal surveys of public roads, water control works and utility easements
- Legal surveys of land parcels and subdivisions (including the cottaging initiative)
- Retracement and restoration surveys of prior legal survey
- Topographic surveys and terrain elevation models
- Control surveys for topographic mapping and civil engineering projects
- Control surveys for property parcel mapping (also known as cadastral integration surveys)
- Cadastral (property parcel) mapping
- Property parcel dimensions, acreages and coordinates
- Administrative boundary plans
- Title plots and legal descriptions
- Structure location surveys and certificates
- Land transaction/conveyance documents

**Key Results Achieved:**

- Cost-recovery objective
- Cottage subdivision surveys at various locations
- Retracement, public road, and water control work surveys at numerous locations
- Parcel surveys for additions to First Nation lands at many sites
- Administrative boundary plans for Protected Areas, Wildlife Management Areas and Park Areas

The Branch initiated, continued or completed 537 projects in 2007/08, as follows:

Legal survey projects	144
Control survey projects	18
Topographic survey projects	4
Administrative boundary plan projects	16
Legal description projects	354
Cadastral mapping projects	1
Total	537

**Table CS.2**  
**12.2(b) Survey Services**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual	Estimate	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.	
	2007/08	2007/08			
			\$ (000)	FTE	\$ (000)
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,341.5	26.00	1,518.2	(176.8)	
Other Expenditures	415.6		456.5	(40.9)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(1,459.6)		(1,570.7)	111.1	
<b>Total 12.2(b)</b>	<b>297.4</b>	<b>26.00</b>	<b>404.0</b>	<b>(106.6)</b>	

## Distribution Centre

The Distribution Centre serves the public and government agencies with mapping and aerial photo products. Mapping products are sold across Canada. The market for these products is primarily the public and outdoor recreational users throughout North America. Product lines are continually being improved and expanded to meet the needs of Map Sales clientele.

### Key Results Achieved:

A new Canadian Map Catalogue was designed and produced on CD Rom to promote the sale of mapping products for across Canada. The new CD catalogue encompasses all mapping products provided by the Distribution Centre and should increase sales in future years.

The Distribution Centre obtained all National Topographic Series Maps (over 14,000 titles) electronically from Natural Resources Canada, enabling the Centre to print on demand all topographic maps for across Canada. This new technology provides faster and more efficient service to clients, as any map can be provided with an immediate turn around time as opposed to a two-week wait for special orders processed through Ottawa. This technology has also enabled the Centre to introduce a new waterproof topographic map product line.

Lake depth maps for lakes in Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta are continually being updated to include the Universal Transverse Mercator grids and coordinates. This information is required for our many clients who are now using hand held Global Positioning System (GPS) units.

In 2007/08, 29,865 maps were sold directly or through the 150 dealers in Manitoba, Ontario and the north central United States. The Distribution Centre maintained its ranking of third largest distributor of Topographic maps in Canada.

Air photo products are produced and sold to the general public and government agencies. The Air Photo Library houses the only historic pictures of Manitoba's landscape dating back to the 1920s and holds approximately 1,000,000 such photos. These photos are purchased by resource planners, environmental agencies, land developers, mining companies, etc. In 2007/08, the traditional darkroom facilities were dismantled and replaced with new scanners and printers. All photos are now produced through the scanning and printing of aerial photographs, technology that provides high quality products for all clients. Standard 10" x 10" and enlargements up to 40" x 40" are still available to clients.

Development of a new [canadamapsales.com](http://canadamapsales.com) website commenced in 2007/08, and is anticipated to be operational in late 2008/09.

In 2007/08, 3,565 aerial photo products were sold to customers.

**Table CS.3**  
**12.2(c) Distribution Centre**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	376.9	7.00	333.0	43.9	
Other Expenditures	295.1		338.0	(42.9)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(31.4)		(50.0)	18.6	
<b>Total 12.2(c)</b>	<b>640.6</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>621.0</b>	<b>19.6</b>	

## **Seasonal Support**

Seasonal Support provides for student employment during peak periods of departmental employment.

### **Key Results Achieved:**

The Department participated in STEP student employment programming coordinated through the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth, as well as co-op education programs offered through community colleges and universities.

Approximately 74 students were employed in support of departmental programming.

**Table CS.4**  
**12.2(d) Seasonal Support**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Over/(Under)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$ (000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$ (000)</b>	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	361.3		387.9	(26.6)
<b>Total 12.2(d)</b>	<b>361.3</b>		<b>387.9</b>	<b>(26.6)</b>

# Regional Operations

## Regional Support Services

### 2007/08 Annual Report Objectives and Key Results Achieved

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*Regional field staff are given the necessary knowledge, tools and resources and are trained and certified in necessary skill sets which will result in safe, effective and professional delivery of department programs.*

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- Firearms and Defensive Tactics qualification and recertification for 200 full-time and seasonal Resource Officers was completed regionally by Firearms Instructors and Defensive Tactics instructors.
- Central Training sessions were held for 125 full-time Natural Resource Officers (NRO) to hone their firearm handling and self-defence skills, as well as to introduce them to the new physical abilities test being implemented for officer recruits in Manitoba and other provinces.
- Seventy-eight (78) seasonal Park Patrol Officers and Assistant Resource Officers participated in a new 100-hour training course approved by Manitoba Justice and delivered by the Northwest Law Enforcement Academy. Twenty (20) Environment Officers participated in a 40-hour basic enforcement course, also delivered by the Academy.
- To meet the requirements of advancement, 30 seasonal Resource Officers were put through a firearms proficiency test and the Physical Ability Test for Conservation Officers.
- Six (6) new NRO recruits were given training and certified in the use and carry of issued firearms.
- Soft body armour was issued to all Park Patrol Officers and Assistant Resource Officers to enhance officer safety.
- A Back Country Canoe Safety Course was delivered to prepare 6 students designated to do river patrol on white-water rivers.
- Advanced Tactical Driving certification for 10 recent officer recruits was delivered within the department, as well as refresher training for 24 officers. At a later date, Winnipeg Police Service certified an additional 3 NROs as instructors.

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*Specialized enforcement needs such as detailed investigations, covert operations, forensic lab services and canine detection are developed sufficiently to meet the needs of the department's field officers in addressing violations of resource and environmental law.*

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- Regional investigators assisted various districts with complex investigations primarily related to illegal harvest and use of fish and wildlife. Investigators arranged for assistance of United States investigators in two provincial investigations requiring the taking of statements and seizing of evidence from the United States.
- A covert investigation relating to the illegal sale of fish in the Winnipeg area that concluded in 2007 was successfully prosecuted in the courts. Numerous charges against two individuals resulted in \$8,500.00 in fines and surcharges.

- A two-year covert investigation relating to the illegal sale of Lake Sturgeon was concluded and charges are presently before the courts.
- A covert investigation relating to illegal outfitting in rural Manitoba was conducted with charges presently being reviewed by federal and provincial prosecutors.
- An investigation was conducted regarding the illegal export of Manitoba fish from Canada. This investigation resulted in seven charges which are presently before the courts.
- There were 128 human-caused wildfires investigated resulting in two prosecutions, two warnings and evidence gathered to support 55 fire suppression cost recovery charge-backs. There were 75 fires determined to have been intentionally caused of which 34 were suspected to have been arson.
- One individual was successfully prosecuted for arson under the Criminal Code for charges that had been laid in relation to a 2003 wildfire investigation. In order to gather sufficient evidence to successfully prosecute, this investigation was underway for three years.
- The Manitoba Conservation Canine Team was used extensively throughout the Province. Jake, a Belgian Malinois, worked on a variety of details including roadside check stations, decoy operations, searching for evidence involving investigations of illegal fishing and hunting and assisted other agencies with such things as searching for lost persons and tracking of individuals who fled from officers. The team was also involved with wildfire investigations and provided instruction in defensive tactics, firearms and use of force.
- The dog and officer handler conducted public education programs in schools and at public meetings throughout the Province, contacting approximately five hundred people.

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*The public has access to well-advertised 24-hour toll-free numbers to report forest fires and resource-law violations.*

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- The 24-hour toll free telephone service (1-800-782-0076), aimed at reducing the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife, received 312 calls resulting in 18 prosecutions and 1 warning. In addition, the toll free line received 88 calls reporting forest fires.
- See Tables RO.13 and RO.14.

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*Recruitment and staffing of Resource Officers and Environment Officers are conducted in such a way as to maintain high professional standards and meet the needs of the Department and the expectation of the public.*

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- Eight Natural Resource Officers were transferred to new locations to meet operational needs and to facilitate career development.
- Eighteen Natural Resource Officers and 10 Environment Officers were successful in competitive processes for new and vacant positions within the Division.
- Six new Natural Resource Officers and 11 new Environment Officers were hired on to fill vacancies.
- Forty-eight new Park Patrol Officers were hired to provide safety and security services in provincial parks for the summer months.
- Seven former Park Patrol Officers were promoted to seasonal Assistant Resource Officers.

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*Field staff, managers and executive have access to accurate and timely inspection and compliance data to enable decision-making and informed analysis of the effectiveness of legislation and program delivery.*

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- See Tables RO.1 to RO.7.
- A replacement data management program for compliance & enforcement data is under development with the assistance of departmental Information Technology staff.

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*Program branches are kept informed of operational issues and supplied with the necessary feedback and expertise to continually improve programs to meet the needs of the public and the Department's clients.*

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- Worked with the Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch on detailed amendments to several regulations under *The Wildlife Act* and on issues related to Aboriginal consultation, captive animals and wildlife disease control.
- Worked with the Forestry Branch on legislative amendments and finalizing a policy governing the harvest of wood by First Nations persons.
- Provided several pieces of analysis to the Parks and Natural Areas Branch concerning the application of parks legislation and worked with that Branch on an amendment to the *Park Activities Regulation* and an anti-rowdyism communication strategy.

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*Sufficient liaison is maintained with other government departments, federal/provincial agencies and non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to maintain up-to-date and continually improving service delivery models.*

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- Sessions held with Manitoba Health and department staff to finalize the transfer of the Public Health Inspection program from Conservation to Health in 2007.
- Considerable liaison and many working sessions held with Manitoba Justice to address issues related to the harvesting of natural resources by Métis people. An inter-jurisdictional meeting of Western Canadian agencies was also held.
- Worked extensively with the Fisheries Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship on issues relating to commercial fish quota management and enforcement. Met with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in relation to the same issues and the enforcement components of fish marketing.
- Met with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) concerning federal and provincial enforcement of fisheries habitat legislation.
- Met with senior RCMP officials in relation to policing in provincial parks.
- Provided an information seminar on hunting and fishing regulations for Judiciary Justices of the Peace.
- Participated in a national symposium on Aboriginal consultation and in national and international meetings of resource law enforcement heads.
- Provided input to two consultation workshops on citizen services, licences and enforcement, as well as participated on the Treasury Board initiated Inspection Services Review Team.

*Hunter-killed livestock claims are evaluated and processed promptly and livestock producers are fairly compensated for animals accidentally killed by hunters.*

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- The Program compensates livestock owners for animals deemed accidentally shot by licensed hunters during an open big game season. Claims are investigated by Natural Resource Officers and occasionally by the RCMP. This year, six claims qualified for compensation totaling \$3,624. Program activity for the past ten years is illustrated in Table RO.11.

*The regions and department executive are kept updated on emerging changes and issues. Strategies are prepared to handle problems and introduce new initiatives.*

---

- An extensive organizational and functional review was undertaken to consider the Division's core business lines and best options for delivery of field services. Options were developed for executive review and consideration.
- Operational procedures were updated to reflect the progress of research and case law related to Métis and First Nation resource harvesting.

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**Table RO.1**  
**Livestock Regulation Enforcement 1998/99 to 2007/08**

Fiscal Year	Prosecutions	Warnings	Orders	Fines (\$)
1998-99	12	32	7	11,862
1999-00	9	35	10	8,496
2000-01	16	49	22	8,067
2001-02	16	53	34	11,903
2002-03	15	59	21	20,280
2003-04	19	54	57	23,076
2004-05	16	63	45	36,960
2005-06	12	53	35	8,935
2006-07	2	41	29	1,114
2007-08	-	17	21	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>\$130,693</b>

**Table RO.2**  
**Environmental Programs Enforcement**

Legislation	Prosecutions	Warnings	Orders and Suspensions	Fines(\$)
<i>The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act</i> - Dangerous Goods Handling & Transportation Regulation - Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation	50	8	5	18,509
<i>The Environment Act</i> - Litter Regulation - Burning of Crop Residue and Non-Crop Herbage Regulation - Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation - Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation - Waste Disposal Grounds Regulation	28	48	30	24,048
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>\$42,557</b>

**Table RO.3**  
**Common Violations under The Provincial Parks Act**

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences	Evictions
No Park Vehicle Pass	1,169	3	1,172	0
Cause Disturbance	70	81	151	827
Parking Violations	105	11	116	3
Disobey Officer/Sign/Permit	51	17	68	24
Camp w/o Permit/Prohibited	19	9	28	2
Unlawful Vehicle Operation	25	26	51	7
Possess Fireworks	16	13	29	1
Have Liquor Where Prohibited	38	3	41	145
Fail to Control Pet / On Beach	9	17	26	0
Fire w/o Permit/Unattended Fire	5	3	8	0
Fail to Maintain Campsite	4	5	9	4
Damage Pollute Park Property	16	5	21	0
Other	10	11	21	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>1,013</b>

**Table RO.4****Common Violations under *The Wildlife Act***

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Hunt/Trap/Guide W/O Licence / Licence Infractions	15	17	32
Hunt From or Have Loaded Firearm in Vehicle	42	3	45
Tagging / Transportation Infractions	36	16	52
Hunt Prohibited Area/Private Land W/O Permission	41	7	48
Hunt or Discharge Firearm From Road	26	0	26
Equipment Infractions	7	13	20
Night Hunting / Dangerous Hunting	20	0	20
Abandon/Waste Game	10	0	10
Bait Infractions	13	5	18
Possess Illegally Taken / Prohibited Wildlife	22	4	26
Hunt Out of Season	5	0	5
Hunt for Remuneration / Illegal Sale of Wildlife	0	0	0
Other	7	11	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>320</b>

**Table RO.5****Common Violations under *Fisheries Act (Canada)*, and *The Fisheries Act (Manitoba)***

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Equipment Infractions	259	40	299
Licence Infractions	170	99	269
Exceed Limits	85	16	101
Transportation Infractions	24	29	53
Illegal Sale / Possession of Fish	39	11	50
Wastage of Fish	11	1	12
Fish During Closed Time / Closed Area	6	4	10
Live Bait Infractions	1	0	1
Other	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>797</b>

**Table RO.6****Comparison of Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Migratory Birds Prosecutions 1998/99 to 2007/08**

Fiscal Year	Wildlife	Fisheries	Parks	Migratory Birds
1998-99	278	965	248	6
1999-00	337	833	219	36
2000-01	371	610	203	8
2001-02	379	674	227	8
2002-03	213	537	195	9
2003-04	321	654	1,523*	15
2004-05	287	660	1,219*	9
2005-06	376	707	1,634*	15
2006-07	289	547	1,559*	18
2007-08	244	595	1,537*	23

\*Includes Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported before 2003-04

**Table RO.7****Record of Violations Occurring 2007/08**

Acts	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Criminal Code of Canada	1	0	1
Crown Lands	22	17	39
Ecological Reserves	0	1	1
Forest	5	12	17
Fisheries (Canada)	417	81	498
Fisheries (Manitoba)	178	121	299
Freshwater Fish Marketing	6	0	6
Highway Traffic	21	3	24
Liquor Control	263	12	275
Migratory Birds	23	6	29
Off Road Vehicle	32	6	38
Provincial Parks	1,537	204	1,741
Resource Tourism Operators	0	1	1
Wild Animal & Plant Protection	1	0	1
Wildfires	15	9	24
Wildlife	244	76	320
Water Rights	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,765</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>3,316</b>

Total Fines: \$328,260 for 2007/08

**Table RO.8****Hunter and Firearm Safety Program 1997-2007**

Year	Students	Total to Date	Instructors Certified
1997	2,101	128,419	8
1998	1,807	130,226	24
1999	2,068	132,294	15
2000	2,079	134,373	5
2001	1,976	136,349	4
2002	2,191	138,540	7
2003	2,059	140,599	14
2004	2,336	142,935	24
2005	2,611	145,546	14
2006	3,032	148,578	14
2007	2,936	151,514	13

**Table RO. 9****Firearm Accidents, 1964-2003, 5-Year Averages**

1964-68	64
1969-73	56
1974-78	54
1979-83	43
1984-88	26
1989-93	20
1994-98	9
1999-03	6

**Table RO.10**  
**Firearm Accidents 1998-2007**

Year	Accidents			Fatalities		
	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total
1998	4	2	6	1	0	1
1999	10	5	15	3	1	4
2000	3	0	3	0	0	0
2001	6	0	6	3	0	3
2002	2	0	2	1	0	1
2003	4	0	4	1	0	1
2004	5	1	6	1	0	1
2005	2	3	5	1	0	1
2006	3	0	3	0	0	0
2007	2	0	2	0	0	0

**Table RO.11**  
**Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation 1998/99 to 2007/08**

Year Paid	Claims	Claims Paid	Total Paid	Average Paid
1998-99	7	6	\$9,533	\$1,589
1999-00	9	6	\$5,670	\$ 945
2000-01	7	4	\$4,120	\$1,030
2001-02	6	5	\$5,034	\$1,007
2002-03	9	5	\$5,716	\$1,143
2003-04	3	3	\$2,358	\$ 786
2004-05	4	1	\$ 600	\$ 600
2005-06	3	2	\$1,100	\$ 550
2006-07	2	1	\$2,600	\$2,600
2007-08	9	6	\$3,624	\$ 604

**Table RO.12**  
**Problem Wildlife Occurrences 2007/08**

Species	Region						% of Total
	NE	NW	E	C	W	Total	
Beaver	3	8	48	82	27	168	4%
Black Bear	163	300	452	423	272	1,610	36%
Polar Bear	246	0	0	0	0	246	5%
Big Game	0	0	10	94	115	219	5%
Wolf	21	11	41	82	76	231	5%
Migratory Birds	3	19	10	160	126	318	7%
Other*	11	35	152	1,014	524	1,736	38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>4,528</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Other includes coyote, fox, racoon, skunk, etc.

**Table RO.13****T.I.P. Calls by Region 2007/08**

Region	Number of Calls					Number of Prosecutions			
	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Fire	Total	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Tot
Central	27	90	3	8	128	2	2	0	4
Western	11	82	1	9	103	0	4	1	5
Eastern	15	57	7	27	106	0	2	1	3
Northwest	6	5	1	22	34	0	0	0	0
Northeast	1	5	1	22	29	6	0	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>

**Table RO.14****T.I.P. Calls by Year 1999/00 to 2007/08 (excluding Fire)**

	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
Total Rec'd	758	568	569	485	406	358	330	364	312
Information	28	23	18	31	19	21	10	11	6
Actioned	321	204	230	218	235	226	217	261	192
Prosecutions	70	59	40	30	37	21	37	28	18
Warnings	23	37	12	8	2	5	8	15	1

**Table RO.15****12.3(a) Regional Support Services**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual	Estimate		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	2007/08	\$ (000)	FTE	\$ (000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,904.4	32.50	1,897.3	7.1	
Other Expenditures	1,563.7		1,522.8	40.9	
Problem Wildlife Control	223.1		240.6	(17.5)	
<b>Total 12.3(a)</b>	<b>3,691.2</b>	<b>32.50</b>	<b>3,660.7</b>	<b>30.5</b>	

**Northwest Region**

The Northwest Region encompasses a diverse landscape that includes parts of the Manitoba Lowlands and Canadian Shield natural regions. The Region is dominated by boreal forest, lakes and rivers, largely in a natural state.

Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, commercial timber harvesting and processing (lumber and pulp and paper), agriculture (Manitoba's most northerly farming community), resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting) and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries providing economic and employment benefits in the Region. The harvesting of wild rice and of non-timber forest products also provide for some local employment. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the resident of the Region is also significant.

Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is the most significant and highest priority program delivered in

the Northwest Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. At the same time the Region delivers services, programs and security in the Clearwater Lake, Bakers Narrows, Grass River and Wekusko Provincial Parks. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and enforcement of Crown land, resource and environmental legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and problem wildlife are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northwest Region has a Regional Office located at The Pas and District Offices located at Cranberry Portage, Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Grand Rapids and The Pas.

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*Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.*

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- The Region experienced a below average fire season. The first human caused fire occurred on May 1 and the first lightning fire started May 17. There were a total of 36 fires, of which 22 were lightning caused and 14 human caused. The largest fire was the Baril Lake fire north of Grand Rapids, which reached 2250 hectares in size. This fire proved to be challenging, as it did not receive precipitation for 13 days.

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*15% of anglers checked and 30% of hunters checked.*

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- Natural Resource Officers checked 1996 anglers and 769 hunters for compliance. There were 6 roadside check stations conducted in the Region.

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*New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.*

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- Natural Resource Officers checked 196 commercial fishers and 361 commercial fisher's nets for compliance.

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*Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.*

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- Reed Lake boat launch and docks were rebuilt and enlarged.
- New washroom shower building was completed at Bakers Narrows.
- Phase one of the Stoney Point road to access Opaskwayak Cree Nation Reserve Land within Clearwater Lake Provincial Park was completed following meetings with representatives of the Cree Nation.

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*Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.*

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- Regional and District staff participated as provincial representatives on the Cedar Lake and Cormorant Resource Management Boards, and the Opaskwayak Joint Management board. The Comprehensive Forebay Agreement with the Mosakahiken Cree Nation was signed in February 2008 and the Moose Lake Resource Management Board will be formed with representatives from the First Nation, Community, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, and Conservation. Staff continues to work with other communities and organizations on specific resource-related issues.
- The Opaskwayak Cree Nation(OCN)/Manitoba Conservation Joint Management of Resources Board, established in 2007, continues its work to fully integrate OCN views into resource allocation decisions within their Traditional Territory. Notable accomplishments include community meetings to inform OCN members of the Boards purpose, organization of protocols for obtaining input from OCN user groups, financial support for OCN members

required to pay permit and renewal fees for cabins, and establishment of secretariat and administrative support for the Board. Workshops to review Province of Manitoba policies affecting resource allocation in the Traditional Territory will be undertaken in the near future.

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*Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.*

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- Woodland caribou research and monitoring continue to complete a regional data base of distribution and relative abundance. Provincial and federal legislative protection of this threatened species requires regional staff to assess potential impacts of forest harvesting, mining, hydro developments and other industrial and recreational developments on resident caribou populations. Completion of a regional data base will facilitate timely and cost effective review of industrial proposals and development of appropriate mitigation plans to avoid or minimize impacts to critical caribou habitat. A Northwest Region Woodland Caribou Research and Management Advisory Committee comprised of industry, First Nation, academic and other stakeholder groups reviews and approves research and monitoring activities and is updated on the results.
- The Summerberry Research Project in the Lower Saskatchewan River Delta continues into the second field season with 3 graduate students and assistants studying the effects of water regulation on muskrats, vegetation, and water birds in 6 selected basins. Ducks Unlimited Canada, Manitoba Conservation, and Manitoba Hydro are providing the financial and in kind support to the overall program with involvement of both University of Manitoba and Iowa State University. The results of these studies will assist marsh managers in determining water management practices to maintain and improve the quality of the managed marshes in the Delta.

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*Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.*

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- The region reviewed and provided comments on 64 Crown Land Applications, including assignments, general permits, sales, leases and wild rice applications, 116 Casual Quarry Permit Applications and Licensing Advisory Committee applications. 290 Work Permits were issued, with 68 related to mining and 67 to cottaging. Approximately 21 exploration companies are conducting exploration activities in the Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Moose Lake and Grand Rapids areas, have been issued work permits, and are inspected by Natural Resource Officers for compliance under *The Crown Lands Act*. These activities include drilling, soil sampling, line cutting and geological reconnaissance.

**Table RO.16**  
**12.3(b) Northwest Region**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08 \$(000)	Estimate 2007/08 FTE	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,262.8	39.15	2,169.2	93.6
Other Expenditures	844.5		847.2	(2.7)
<b>Total 12.3(b)</b>	<b>3,107.3</b>	<b>39.15</b>	<b>3,016.4</b>	<b>90.9</b>

## Northeast Region

The Northeast Region encompasses 66% of the land area of Manitoba and is comprised primarily of vast uninterrupted tracts of boreal forest transitioning to taiga in the far north. The majority of the land base remains in its natural state, unaltered and undeveloped, and is largely inaccessible due to an extremely limited road network.

On a capita per area basis the Northeast Region is the most sparsely populated area. Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, hydro-electric generation and transmission, resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting), timber harvesting and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries generating economic and employment benefits for the Region and Province. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the residents of the Region is also significant.

Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is the most significant and highest priority program delivered in the Northeast Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. At the same time the Region delivers services, programs and security at Paint Lake Provincial Park and several other provincial parks. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and enforcement of Crown land, resource and environmental legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and problem wildlife, including the high profile Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill, are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northeast Region has a Regional Office located at Thompson, District Offices located at Churchill, Gillam, Thompson, Wabowden, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Norway House, Island Lake, and Gods Lake Narrows, and sub-District Offices located at Split Lake, Nelson House, Pukatawagan, South Indian Lake, Cross Lake, and Oxford House.

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### *Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.*

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- The Northeast Region experienced a relatively quiet season with a slightly below average number of fires. There were 223 fires in total with 104 the result of lightning and 119 due to human activity. There were no losses of property however large fires in the vicinity of South Indian Lake, Tadoule Lake and Lynn Lake resulted in the evacuation of some community residents due to smoke and related health issues. Successful preparedness planning and initial attack kept losses of merchantable timber the Primary Protection Zone to a negligible level.

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### *15% of anglers checked and 30% of hunters checked.*

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- Natural Resource Officers checked 1806 anglers and 662 hunters for compliance.
- Natural Resource Officers checked 280 commercial fishermen for compliance.

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### *Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.*

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- Shower building was upgraded at Paint Lake.
- New electrical barrier free campsite opened at Paint Lake.
- New docks were installed at boat launches at Zed and Burge Lakes.

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*Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.*

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- Regional and District staff participated as provincial representatives on the Nelson House, Split Lake, York Factory, Norway House and Fox Lake Resource Management Boards, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, the Wapisu Caribou Committee and the Wapusk National Park Management Board.
- Regional staff continued working with the Mathias Colomb First Nation in assessing the potential economic and employment benefits associated with community-based forest management initiatives.
- Regional staff participated on the department's negotiating committee towards the establishment of the Cree and the Island Lake Regional Resource management Boards as provided for under the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Accord.

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*Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.*

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- 49 polar bears were captured under the Polar Bear Alert Program in fall 2007, which was the lowest number handled in the past ten years. The number of polar bear occurrences reported was 247 with November being the busiest month (45% of the reported occurrences). There continues to be a high amount of media interest with the Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill, with staff providing assistance to 10 media groups reporting on the program.

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*Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.*

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- Regional staff monitored the transmission line and road development associated with Manitoba Hydro's Wuskwatim project and worked with Hydro staff to address and mitigate issues as they occurred. In particular assistance was provided in designing mitigation measures for boreal woodland caribou occurring along the transmission line routing.
- Two coastal polar bear surveys were completed in 2007. A July survey done after little ice remains in Hudson Bay revealed 133 polar bears and a September survey showed 138 polar bears. The distribution of the polar bears along the coastline was similar for both surveys, indicating little movement during the ice free period. Staff also assisted Canadian Wildlife Service staff in carrying out an experimental survey designed to provide a population estimate for the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation of polar bears.
- Initial steps were taken towards the establishment of a Northeast Region Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee to include First Nations (Nisichawayashik Cree Nation, Norway House Cree Nation, Cross Lake First Nation), Northern Affairs communities (Norway House, Cross Lake, Wabowden, Thicket Portage), industry (Vale Inco, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, Crowflight, Tolko, Manitoba Hydro) and Conservation.

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*Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.*

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- The Region reviewed and provided comments on 36 Crown Land applications, 27 Crown Land assignments, 1 Crown Land development time frame extension, 108 Casual Quarry Permit applications, 11 Licence Advisory Committee applications, 7 LAC renewal applications and 4 LAC transfer of operating authority applications. 238 Timber Permits, 136 Work Permits and 64 Burning Permits were issued through District Offices and Regional Office.

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#### Other Notable Highlights

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- Environment Officers carried out inspections on Onsite Waste Water Management Systems, Waste Disposal Grounds, Petroleum Storage Sites, Hazardous Material Storage Sites, Mine Sites and Wastewater Facilities. Two Warnings and one Order were issued under the *Environment Act*.
- The Thompson Fur Table was attended by 200 trappers, and a total of \$226,929.00 worth of fur was sold.
- Non-resident hunting continues to be an important activity in the Northeast Region with 58 lodge operators/outfitters being allocated 212 moose licenses, 745 black bear licenses and 440 caribou licenses.
- Regional staff coordinated the planting of 30,000 trees, free-to-grow surveys on 250 hectares, and herbicide on 146 hectares.
- Regional staff assisted with revegetation efforts at decommissioned mine sites at Lynn Lake and Manibrige.
- Regional staff coordinated community tree plants at Thompson, Churchill and Norway House. Youth from all three communities participated.
- A Regional Safety Coordinator is now on staff for the Northeast Region. The coordinator is auditing the current safety program and training to ensure the compliance with the *Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act* and Regulations in Conservation and Water Stewardship.

**Table RO.17**  
**12.3(c) Northeast Region**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,608.4	46.38	2,716.3	(107.9)
Other Expenditures	1,226.8		1,117.3	109.5
<b>Total 12.3(c)</b>	<b>3,835.2</b>	<b>46.38</b>	<b>3,833.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>

#### Central Region

In June 2007, the former Interlake and Red River Regions were combined to form the new Central Region. The Central Region delivers programs and services in the following program areas: wildlife, forestry, Crown lands, provincial parks, environmental protection, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment and natural resource legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Gimli and District Offices in Ashern, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Gypsumville, Hodgson, Lundar, Manitou, Portage la Prairie, Riverton, Selkirk, Winkler, Winnipeg, and Winnipeg Beach.

## Environment Programs

Public Health Programs are no longer the mandate of the department as Public Health Inspectors and public health programs formerly under the wing of Manitoba Conservation were transferred to Manitoba Health effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

Over 70% of Manitoba's population resides in the Central Region. In addition to the large number of light and heavy industrial operations located in the region, agriculture industry such as livestock operations also play a major economic role in the region. Major programs associated with the above described activities administered by the region include *The Environment Act*, The Transportation of Dangerous Goods licenses enforcement, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, On-Site Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, and Livestock Operations.

Environment Officers are located in the Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Winkler, Selkirk, and Gimli offices. Regional staff:

- Processed 800 applications for private onsite wastewater management systems.
- Oversaw the closure of two waste disposal grounds, the opening of two new regional disposal sites and one new waste transfer station.
- Continued to participate in the remediation of a number of contaminated and impacted sites.
- Continued to work with and assist local municipalities in wastewater and solid waste management issues.
- Conducted 300 inspections of livestock operations including the construction of manure storage facilities and responded to 100 complaints and 25 emergencies related to fire and/or spills.
- In the fall of 2007, responded to complaints of smoke from stubble burning; regular patrol and follow up from aerial surveillance program was initiated. Twelve offence notices were issued with eleven convictions.

## Resource Programs

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*Compliance levels in excess of 95% for Public Related Complaints.*

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- Regional staff responded to 3772 district occurrence reports from the public related to parks operation and safety, problem wildlife and resources related complaints. In addition, staff provided representation on behalf of the department and professional advice to a large number of public, industry and interest groups on forestry, wildlife, Crown lands and other resource concerns and issues.
- Central regional staff undertook 1,282 enforcement actions resulting in 556 charges, 126 warnings and 600 evictions from provincial parks. These actions were primarily in response to public complaints on regulatory resource issues as well as maintaining park safety and security for the public.

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*New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.*

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- In response to the newly developed Central Region Enforcement Strategy, enforcement resources were redeployed to park safety and security, wildfire investigations and commercial use of fish and wildlife priorities.

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***Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.***

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- Park rowdyism and public safety and security remain critical issues requiring the primary attention of the region's resources. Reallocation of additional staff from out of district and out of region is required to provide adequate enforcement staff to control situations and respond to public complaints.

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***Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.***

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- Regional Crown Land staff are working with Fisher River First Nation in a partnership relationship for cottage lot development.

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***Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.***

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- The number of problem wildlife complaints from the public increased to 1855 occurrence reports in the newly combined region. Nuisance small animal complaints especially raccoon, skunk, coyotes and others continue to increase and cause the highest number of complaints. Over half of all problem wildlife complaints originate from urban areas and are related to nuisance animals. Public education initiatives continue in the Grand Beach District to prevent black bear/human interactions. Black bear complaints increased to 423 in the region.

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***Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.***

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- An Annual Operating Plan for all proposed harvesting and silviculture work was submitted.
- Little Cedar Lake area was investigated for wildlife values, specifically woodland caribou, in advance of a proposed resource harvest for the area.

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***Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.***

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- The Annual Operating Plan was reviewed and endorsed by the Interlake Regional Management Team in December 2007.
- Operational Land Use codes are reviewed and amended as a regular planning function of the Interdepartmental Blōc Planning Committee (BPC) to ensure resource and land use activities are consistent with the long term land use objectives established for the area in question.
- Approximately 150 cottage lots have been sold in the three cottage subdivisions. The road construction for Little Deer subdivision is primarily complete with construction and contract issues remaining to be resolved before it is certified as built. Hydro service line has been installed to service the 120 lots at Little Deer and MTS has begun the process for telephone installation for 2008.
- The tendering process for road and drainage construction at Mill Creek and Pebblestone is completed with road construction expected to begin in 2008 weather permitting. All the lots in Pebblestone subdivision have been purchased and approximately 30 have been purchased at Mill Creek.
- The Fisher River First Nation partnership development continues. Technical reports have been completed, partial right of way clearings have been initiated and the subdivision application has been submitted.

- All 20 lots in the St. Malo Crown Subdivision have been sold. The road has been completed and the road transfer to the R.M. of De Salaberry is anticipated in 2008. Individual lot titles have been transferred as well.
- Work was completed on the former KOA campground at Emerson allowing for advertisement in 2008 through the public tender process as an opportunity to operate the site as a campground.

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#### *Other Notable Highlights*

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#### **Lands**

- Staff represents Manitoba Conservation on the Provincial Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee. Approximately 15 applications for shoreline erosion protection were reviewed.
- Operational land use coding rationalized long term land use in the areas of the Silver Bog in the RM of Bifrost lands adjacent to the Inwood WMA in the RM of Woodlands and lands adjacent to Sleeve Lake WMA in the RM of Fisher. The resulting operational land use codes established land uses that will be beneficial to the adjacent Crown lands.
- Cattle grazing within the Stephenfield reservoir resulted in a number of meetings with the various stakeholders with the local Conservation District providing assistance to address proper livestock containment from the Crown and private lands involved.

#### **Wildlife**

- Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) continues to be a highly popular wildlife viewing area, with over 200,000 visitors touring the area on an annual basis. A number of infrastructure improvements were undertaken in 2007, including the construction of a new viewing mound at the north end of the marsh and associated connecting trails. Also, a new interpretive kiosk and signage was installed at the main viewing area adjacent to the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.
- The Narcisse Snake Dens is one of the world's most significant snake viewing areas, with approximately 40,000 visitors and 1,500 school children touring the site in 2007. A snake webcam project that will provide live streaming video on the internet was initiated in 2007. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in time for the spring 2009 season.

#### **Parks**

- Birds Hill Provincial Park's visitation remains high with approximately 1.2 million visitors last year. Grand Beach received approximately 480,000 visitors and Winnipeg Beach reached about 58,000.
- The Hecla Oasis Resort in Hecla Provincial Park opened in the spring of 2008.
- Duff Roblin Provincial Park was moved to a new location at the entrance of the floodway gates.
- Hyland Park along Henderson Highway was recently leased to the Rural Municipality of East St. Paul to operate as a quality day use facility.
- Staff approved 182 Special Event Permits for Central Region parks.
- Staff initiated the re-furbishing of the rental cabins at Hecla Provincial Park.

**Table RO.18**  
**12.3(d) Central Region**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Over/(Under)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$ (000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$ (000)</b>	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,973.7	104.33	6,087.2	(113.5)
Other Expenditures	2,006.2		2,072.5	(66.3)
<b>Total 12.3(d)</b>	<b>7,979.9</b>	<b>104.33</b>	<b>8,159.7</b>	<b>(179.8)</b>

## **Eastern Region**

The Eastern Region is comprised of rural towns, First Nation communities, Canadian Shield boreal forest and agricultural lands. The region contains extensive tracts of natural undisturbed areas with the majority of the land not developed for human occupation. As a result, significant economic benefits are derived from natural resource based industries like forestry and from diverse recreational opportunities. Major programs administered by the region include *The Environment Act*, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, Onsite Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, Parks Operations and Maintenance, Forest Planning and Management, Wildlife Research and Season Regulations, Crown Lands and Wild Fire Protection and Suppression.

The Eastern Regional programs and public services are provided by multi-disciplined full time and seasonal staff working from the Regional Office in Lac du Bonnet and District Offices at Beausejour, Falcon Lake, Hadashville, Lac du Bonnet, Lake Winnipeg East, Pine Falls, Rennie, Seven Sisters, Sprague and West Hawk Lake and Sub-District Offices at Berens River, Little Grand Rapids and Bisset. Public lands administered through these offices include 14 provincial parks, 8 provincial forests, 9 wildlife management areas and 7 ecological reserves.

### **2007/08 Annual Report Key Results Achieved**

#### *Forestry*

- On June 27, 2007 a severe windstorm damaged the forest in the northern areas of Whiteshell Provincial Park. An area of 24,000 ha or an area almost half the size of the city of Winnipeg was impacted. Damage to the forest resource was estimated at one million cubic meters of softwood and hardwood. A regional program was developed to salvage approximately 500,000 cubic meters of accessible wood.
- The salvage program was implemented to reduce the risk of wildfire and was vetted through public meetings. Contact was made with business, campers and several hundred cottagers including local interest groups.
- Over 200,000 cubic meters of wood was salvage harvested from 2000 ha of forested land throughout the winter. The salvage program will continue into 2008/09.
- Included in the salvage plan, work was started on forest renewal including preparing contracts for site preparation and ordering trees for planting in the following spring.

#### *Environment*

- Environmental protection continued as a high priority as staff met with Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade and individual rural municipalities to address wastewater treatment and collection infrastructure improvements where needed.

- Environment Officers registered and authorized the installation of 454 onsite wastewater management systems.
- Enforcement action by Eastern Region Environment Officers included the issuance of eighteen (18) Environment Officer Warnings, eleven (11) Environment Officer Orders, six (6) Offence Notices and one Director's Order.
- Work continued as a priority in the Livestock program through inspections of new construction, addressing manure spills and complaints.

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*Compliance levels in excess of 95% for Public Related Complaints*

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- Regional staff responded to 2,505 district occurrence reports from the public related to parks operation and safety, problem wildlife and resources related complaints.
- Effective control of park rowdyism led to reduced level of related public complaints.

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*Camping Initiative Improvement Program in Provincial Parks*

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- A major upgrade of services continued in the West Hawk Lake campground in Whiteshell Provincial Park with new electrical, water and fully serviced sites and the construction of a new shower building.
- The major upgrade of Lakeshore Campground in Falcon Lake was completed with new electrical and water services to sites.
- Electrical service was provided to transient sites in Betula Lake campground.

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*Priority Development in Provincial Parks*

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- The TransCanada Trail continued to be a priority with expansions undertaken in conjunction with both North and South Whiteshell Trail Associations.
- Upon securing an Environmental License for a full rebuild of the wastewater treatment lagoon at West Hawk Lake, construction began on a multi year construction project.
- The reconstruction of the wastewater treatment lagoon at Big Whiteshell Lake was completed.

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*Boreal Woodland Caribou Program*

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- Through a new program initiatives, a Caribou Biologist was hired and enabled an expanded regional caribou program with the following activities undertaken:
  - Chair the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee which is comprised of 11 partners representing government, industry, NGOs, academics, communities and others.
  - Research includes:
    - Caribou monitoring – an additional 15 animals were collared across 3 populations. A total of 45 caribou across 5 populations are being monitored with a greater number being located in the Owl Lake range. Data obtained will provide information on habitat use, movement, distribution, survival, calf recruitment as well response to an experimental harvest.
    - Surveys to provide information on predator and other ungulate species.
    - In collaboration with a Master of Science student studying wolf movements, 8 wolves collared in the Owl Lake area. This research will allow for some initial insight into wolf habitat use and movement as it relates to caribou range.
  - Work began on drafting a conservation/mitigation plan for the Atiko and Bloodvein caribou ranges.
  - Participated in inter-provincial collaborative projects related to woodland caribou.

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*Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.*

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- Supports the development of the Provincial Cottaging Initiative.
- Sites were selected and new lots were made available in the fall 2006 draw at Driftwood and Blueberry Sub-divisions in the Manigotagan area on Lake Winnipeg on the Wanipigow Subdivision on Wanipigow Lake. Existing infill lots at Grausdin Point, Totem Road, Traverse Estates, Maple Creek and Lee River were also advertised on the draw. Construction of roads and installation of services such as telephone and power at these sites is continuing.

**Table RO.19**  
**12.3(e) Eastern Region**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,676.0	65.42	3,542.4	133.6	
Other Expenditures	1,039.4		955.1	84.3	
<b>Total 12.3(e)</b>	<b>4,715.4</b>	<b>65.42</b>	<b>4,497.5</b>	<b>217.9</b>	

## Western Region

The Western Region is an extremely diverse area which encompasses a range of land based development and activities from urban centres to intensive agricultural and industrial development to remote undeveloped natural habitat. The region reaches from the American border on the south to the northern end of Lake Winnipegosis and is geographically divided in half by the Riding Mountain National Park. It was formerly two regions (South West region and Western Region) and while functioning as one region much of the administration and management is completed by two distinct sub-regions.

The region contains 58% of the Rural Municipalities in the province and is the second most populated area of the province next to the Red River region. Agricultural land use predominates the region while the northern portion supports a significant portion of the provinces forestry industry. As a result of this agricultural land use there are significant problem wildlife issues (beaver, coyote, and elk depredation). The region contains 5 well known natural topographic features in the form of the Turtle, Riding, Duck and Porcupine Mountains as well as Lake Winnipegosis. In addition Lake of the Prairies is one of the premier walleye fisheries in the province. Recreational and Commercial use of natural resources within the region are a major economic stimulus in the region. There are 21 provincial parks in the region. The region contains the majority of outfitters in the province. There are major industrial and agricultural processing industries in the region including Maple Leaf Foods, Louisiana Pacific, Canexus (formerly Nexus), Koch (formerly Simplot), Ayherst Organics, Hazco.

All of the above use and activities require extensive administration and monitoring under the Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry, Parks, Crown Lands and Environment Acts and regulations and associated programs.

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*Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.*

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- A responsive and effective wildlife program continues to be delivered in the Western Region.
- Regional Staff continued to assist in the field delivery of the bovine Tuberculosis (TB) implementation plan developed by the TB Task Group. This program continued with the barrier fencing program.
- District work plans starting to be implemented at various stages.
- Continued emphasis on compliant and intelligent driven enforcement efforts.
- Over \$2,000,000 in timber revenue was collected in the Regional Forestry Office.
- District enforcement staff examined historical complaints of illegal activity and scheduled patrols to coincide with those dates to maximize effectiveness.
- This was the first full year for the delivery of the District Work Plans. There were some challenges in meeting the objectives due to a staff shortage in the Swan North district.
- Staff assisted MAFRI with an Elk herd seizure on the Manitoba / Saskatchewan border.

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*% of anglers checked and % of hunters checked.*

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- Increased emphasis on decoy and check stop programs.
- Enforcement blitz used in pockets of problem areas resulting in greater sharing of Resource Officers in the Region to achieve objectives.
- Natural Resource Officer's concentrated enforcement efforts on the period before and after rifle deer season dates to detect and apprehend illegal hunters. Fewer day time hunter checks resulted.
- Enforcement efforts were concentrated in areas of concern.
- District staff worked closely with SIU on specific unlawful hunting and fishing intelligence.

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*New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.*

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- Conducted aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Areas 23/23A, 18/18A/18B/18C, around Riding Mountain National Park and Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Forest.
- Increased aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Areas 23/23A, 13A and 18a/18B/18C.
- Greater emphasis on regulatory patrols during spring walleye spawns on Dauphin Lake to gain more intelligence on illegal fish sales.
- In response to increased complaints a number of night patrols were conducted by district enforcement staff including 2 that were assisted by an observer in an aircraft. One patrol resulted in the illegal night hunters attempting to flee from the patrol units.
- An investigation was launched into lawful exotic and native wildlife held at a Game Farm near Minitonas.
- An investigation launched into unlawful selling of fish by aboriginal fishers.
- Taxidermy inspections ongoing as per district work plans.

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*Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within provincial parks.*

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- Regular man-up for May long weekend in Western Region Parks. No significant incidents or rowdyism occurred in the Western Region Parks.
- Resource Officers assisted in park security delivery in other regional parks during the summer peak periods.
- Staff assisted Central and Eastern Regions during peak weekends.

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*Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.*

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- Regional Wildlife staff has begun Moose Management presentations with local user groups and First Nation around Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Porcupine Provincial Forest. The initial presentation is designed to educate the public on declining Moose populations.
- Co-management process continues with WRTC for the management of Lake Dauphin.
- Participate with Forestry Crown Consultation process with LP Long-Term Forestry Management Plan.
- District enforcement staff continue to attend local game and fish association meetings in order to foster positive relations with the department.
- Staff initiated community presentations on declining moose populations to Sapotawayek and Wuskwi Sipihk First Nations communities. These presentations have been well received by the communities. Staff is being encouraged to continue and expand this consultation process.
- Staff continue to be involved with school groups, Fish Enhancement Association, Cottage Association, RCMP, DFO, Loggers and Haulers, Campers Association, Trapper's Association, Snowmobile Association, etc.

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*Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.*

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- Efforts continue to educate user groups on the Bear Safe program.
- The problem Beaver Program was continued throughout the Western Region.
- The "Bears and Bees" project in the Ethelbert area continues. Four outfitters maintain approximately 20 electric fences around chronic bee-yard depredation sites to assist Manitoba's largest honey producer. Nuisance bear harvest is significantly reduced and no fences were breached by bears.
- Coyote populations remained high with a significant number of complaints received. A problem predator control program has been extended in co-operation with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation and the Manitoba Trappers Association to assist cattle producers with depredation issues.
- Two problem predator workshops were conducted at Roblin and Ste. Rose with instructions on trapping techniques and predator calling.
- Manitoba Conservation continues to work with cattle producers to prevent Big Game depredation to stored hay. Negotiations are currently being held with three local producers (Swan River, Ethelbert and Grandview) to erect hay protection barrier fences.
- Regional Staff have initiated compliance inspections for exotic wildlife farms.

- An aerial survey was conducted in the Turtle Mountain Provincial Park (surrounding Game Hunting Area 29) in 2007. Moose populations appear to be stable or slightly decreasing.
- Assistance relative to wildlife and bio-diversity in general was provided to the Little Saskatchewan River, Turtle Mountain and Upper Assiniboine River Conservation Districts in developing management plans for watersheds.
- Timber wolf predation appears to be on the increase in the area south of HWY #1 adjacent to the north/east side of Spruce Woods Provincial Park.
- Cougar complaints and sightings are also on the increase in the north east corner of the Carberry district area.
- Several wild boars were sighted in Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Two were subsequently destroyed.
- On an opportunistic basis, staff have found fencing materials for landowners to build hay enclosures.
- Districts continue to administer the problem beaver program for the R.M.'s and RTL's.
- Coyote and bear problems continue to be an issue.

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#### ***Other Key Results Achieved***

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- Established a procedure to encourage utilization of timber on Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) pastures.
- Whitewater Lake continues to attract visitors from all around the world as a high profile destination for birding.
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and TB continue to be a concern in the Western Region.
- Western Region has successfully completed cleanup of old outfitters camps in the south of Duck Mountain Provincial Park.
- Partial road construction of cottage subdivisions at Lake of the Prairies, Narrows and others within the Western Region.
- Started to complete development agreements with various municipalities involved with cottage subdivisions.
- Completed preplan mitigation of LP Canada and Mountain Quota Holders 2008-09 Annual Operating Plans.
- Initiated Regional Forestry Program transition strategy with transfer of softwood reforestation program from Manitoba Conservation and LP to the Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company.
- Participated with communication of the proposed Timber Administration System changes to industry and regional staff through meetings and correspondence.
- Completed 840 cull, defect and undersize plots, measuring 31,647 timber samples at LP, SPL and Riehl Lumber mills as part of provincial scaling program.
- Measure 865 log length samples as part of softwood log length audit.
- 547,700 spruce seedlings planted on 302 hectares of Crown Land in the Mountain Forest section.
- Site preparation (both mechanical and chemical treatments) of 23 hectares for planting.
- Staff continues to be trained in the new timber tracking system coming into effect for 2008.

**Table RO.20**  
**12.3(f) Western Region**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,630.6	86.01	4,705.0	(74.4)
Other Expenditures	1,489.4		1,504.9	(15.5)
<b>Total 12.3(f)</b>	<b>6,120.0</b>	<b>86.01</b>	<b>6,209.9</b>	<b>(89.9)</b>

### **Park Operations and Maintenance**

Details regarding Park Operations and Maintenance are included within each of the Regions that deliver this program.

**Table RO.21**  
**12.3(g) Park Operations and Maintenance**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	13,163.7	226.57	12,759.1	404.6
Other Expenditures	6,017.3		5,893.5	123.8
Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(439.8)		(445.7)	5.9
<b>Total 12.3(g)</b>	<b>18,741.2</b>	<b>226.57</b>	<b>18,206.9</b>	<b>534.3</b>

### **Fire and Emergency Response Program**

#### **Fire Summary**

- The fire season of 2007 can be classified as a "below average" fire season. The spring began with assisting in spring flood operations in the Western regions of the Province and slowed with cold weather experienced in August and September.
- Over the winter precipitation was normal in most areas with the exception of the Southeastern portions of the Province, resulting in the south and central regions of the province coming into a very dry spring. The first fires were human caused and reported on April 11. A number of fires occurred in the Eastern Region in late April (Belair Provincial Forest) and again in mid-May (Vassar Complex). The fire situation then quieted throughout the south allowing Manitoba to assist Quebec with air tanker and personnel and equipment resources.
- Hot dry weather intensified large fires in the north (Lynn Lake and Leaf Rapids north), resulting in several evacuations for northern communities due to heavy smoke in early to mid-July.

- Another high priority timber fire occurred in the Northwest Region on July 26 (Baril Lake), requiring deployment of the Incident Management Team and resulting in a loss of 2,250 hectares of timber.
- Several severe storms resulted in tornados and wind events throughout the south. Fire crews assisted in tree removal throughout the Whiteshell Provincial Park.

### **Fire Investigation**

- As reported by the regions in the weekly reports, a summary of investigations is as follows:
  - 185 human caused fires reported
  - 126 fires investigated, 50 by fire investigators, 75 by other district staff
  - 57 fires were not investigated
  - 40 accidentally caused fires
  - 75 intentionally caused fires, of which 34 were suspected to have been arson
  - 56 negligence caused fires
  - 14 unknown caused fires
  - 14 fires, waiting on more information
  - 2 prosecutions under *The Wildfires Act*
  - 2 warnings

Fire investigations supported 55 charge backs to various communities or agencies.

### **Air Operations**

- The 2007 fire season proved to be fairly active for Manitoba aviation resources. Manitoba received quick strike assistance from Ontario and Saskatchewan and was able to provide assistance to Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. SEAT aircraft were hired for a total of 35 days, supplementing Manitoba's CL-215 fleet, and were positioned for community protection, new fire starts and sustained fire action.
- Manitoba helicopter operations were also very active with the long-term helicopter contracts being supplemented by casual hire helicopters. In 2007 Manitoba had 6 helicopters on long term contracts (as compared to 5 in 2006).

### **Field Operations**

An early start to the fire season due to dry spring conditions on the east side of the province resulted in numerous fire starts. One of these incidents required the deployment of an Incident Management Team (IMT). Two more large incidents with tremendous potential occurred on the east side of Manitoba very early in the season. The season then quickly moved north with one fire requiring action by another Incident Management Team and two more large incidents (one fire complex) responded to regionally.

- Field audits/checks of helicopters (short term hire and contract) were conducted throughout the Province. District and Regional operations received safety and operational assessments throughout the Province. The Departmental communication repeater system was analyzed and valuable partnership agreements were established to address shortcomings and provide efficiencies.
- Unfortunately, two instances of firefighter deaths on the job occurred. They were thoroughly investigated. Both deaths were attributed to heart failure, as was a third death that happened in non fire action. The deaths of the firefighters were highly unusual and very saddening to Department staff.

## **Science & Technology**

Weather work consisted of ongoing maintenance and adjustments to the network of weather stations. The fencing project for many of the weather stations continues with 24 X 24 foot enclosures (8 feet high) being established. These enclosures ensure that animals do not damage or destroy temperature and tipping bucket rain gauge sensors. Additional fence enclosures are planned for deployment at existing weather stations in 2008.

Science & Technology deployed 3 computers complete with network, email, internet, and print services on the Vassar and Baril Lake Project Fires. The new satellite dish enabled better internet connectivity at the project fire than last year complete with Voice over IP (VOIP) phone service and a TCP/IP fax solution. This connectivity enabled email accounts for the management teams and the fast and efficient transport of fire images and mapping products between the incident, the region, and headquarters.

## **Prevention**

Fire prevention advertising once again began early, with the dry conditions continuing where they had left the previous season in the east side of the Province and worked north with the fire season. Advertising consisted of newspaper and radio ads as well as ad placement within publications such as the Manitoba Angling Guide and other select publications. Radio ads also aired on radio stations throughout the province including Native Communications Radio Network and some northern radio stations. Some advertising was also developed geared to the fall resource users and placed in the outdoor features of select newspapers.

FireSmart continues to receive attention in the Province in the form of material distribution, attendance at cottage lot draws, discussion at public open house meetings and joint proposals with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and Manitoba Conservation. A new Smokey Bear costume was purchased by our Central Region. Prevention materials were provided for distribution through the Manitoba Association of Native Fire Fighters.

## **Training**

Training continues to be one of the key focuses of the fire program. Climate change has resulted in longer fire seasons and far more aggressive and dangerous fire behavior. Fireline training conducted in the past year includes the following:

- 185 Initial Attack Crew Members (Type I) were trained and certified or recertified to Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) Exchange Standards (included S-100, Skills, and Hover Exit Certification).
- 53 new Emergency Fire Fighters (Type II) were trained to CIFFC Exchange Standards.
- 7 new Emergency Fire Fighter Crew Leaders were trained to CIFFC Exchange Standards.
- Approximately 200 Emergency Fire Fighters (Type III) were trained and certified or recertified.
- 15 Emergency Fire Fighter Crew Bosses (Type III) were trained and certified or recertified.

- Additional Training included:

- 28 persons - Crew Leader (S-230)
- 29 persons - Incident Command System (I-200)
- 25 persons - Incident Command System (I-300)
- 25 persons - S-360 Finance Unit Leader Administration
- 88 persons - Initial Attack Fire Assessment
- 4 persons - Fire Cause and Origin Determination (FI-210)
- 2 persons - Fire Investigation Case Development (FI-310)

## **Equipment**

The Provincial Fire Equipment Working Group continues in maintenance status as well as continual research and development. Equipment upgrades, improvements to existing equipment items, as well as "eco-friendly" disposable equipment items will be the group's main focus for 2008.

The fire hose purchased by Manitoba continues to prove a good investment by having very limited cull rates. Fire hose is tested at 10% of number purchased, and any manufacture problems result in the entire shipment being returned and replaced without question.

The provincial Pump Parts Program continues to be a success in ensuring parts availability and engine repairs. There have been very few write off's of Mark 3 pumps since the program was implemented as pumps are either refurbished or dismantled for parts.

## **Fire Operations**

The Provincial Fire Centre was busy this season with the training of 5 new staff members that were either new or seconded on short term into the Operations Centre.

Five seasonal helicopter tenders were issued and awarded for 3-year terms to bring the Manitoba complement to 6 long-term contracts. One medium helicopter contract will be tendered this fall for next season.

A total of 77 Provincial Resource Orders were received and filled for provincial mobilizations during the 2007 fire season.

Several aircraft, personnel, and equipment imports and exports were carried out with Ontario, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Quebec and Montana, during the summer fire season through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement.

**Table R0.22**  
**2007 - Number of Fires and Area Burned by Region and Cause**

2007 CAUSE	Northeast		Northwest		Western		Interlake		Eastern		Province	
	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)
recreation	37	143.5	1	0.1	1	2.0	1	2.0	16	3,688.3	56	3,835.9
settlement	19	20.0	1	0.2	3	84.1	1	2.0	8	3.5	32	109.7
woods operations			1	225.3			1	1.0	6	2.5	8	228.8
other industry	1	48.3	4	0.9			2	0.2			7	49.4
railroads	1	0.8	3	0.4					3	406.0	7	407.2
public projects					1	0.1			3	0.4	4	0.6
incendiary	45	20.4	2	1.5	5	125.7	11	53.2	10	411.8	73	612.6
miscellaneous	12	157.9	2	0.2	1	5.4	6	270.5	5	3.0	26	437.0
agricultural					1	108.4	1	9.4	1	0.1	3	117.9
lightning	108	309,763.6	22	2,188.6			1	5.0	35	28.2	166	311,985.3
<b>all causes</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>310,154.5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,417.2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>325.6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>343.2</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>4,543.8</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>317,784.4</b>

Note: In the 2007 fire season 367 wildfires burning 236,918.9 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 15 lightning fires that burned 80,865.5 hectares in the white zone. The Fire Program has been using this new method of data collection since 2003 to augment areas burned in the white zone that are not detected by conventional means. These fires have been added into the totals for an official number of 382 fires burning 317,784.4 hectares for the 2007 fire season.

**Table R0.23**  
**2007- Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status**

2007 ZONE	Actioned Fires				No Action Fires				Limited Action Fires				All Fires		
	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)
RED	217	69.11%	7,432.2	16.33%	1	2.13%	0.1	0.00%	5	23.81%	142.3	0.10%	223	58.38%	7,574.6
YELLOW	1	0.32%	21.4	0.05%									1	0.26%	21.4
GREEN	86	27.39%	36,676.7	80.60%	11	23.40%	762.1	0.59%	10	47.62%	96,466.4	66.95%	107	28.01%	133,905.3
WHITE	10	3.18%	1,374.8	3.02%	35	74.47%	127,431.4	99.41%	6	28.57%	47,476.9	32.95%	51	13.35%	176,283.2
<b>ALL ZONES</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>45,505.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>128,193.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>144,085.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>317,784.4</b>

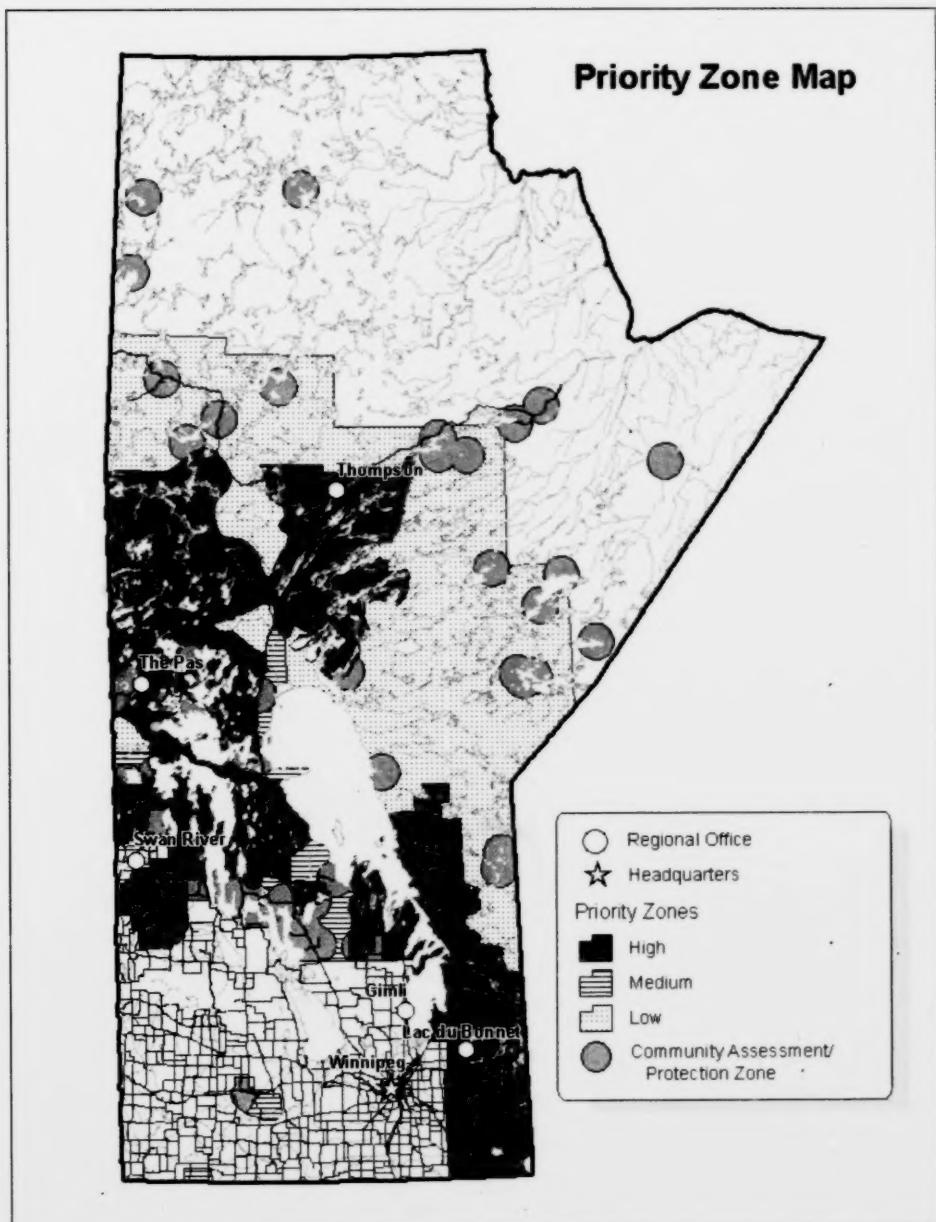
Note: In the 2007 fire season 367 wildfires burning 236,918.9 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 15 lightning fires that burned 80,865.5 hectares in the white zone. The Fire Program has been using this new method of data collection since 2003 to augment areas burned in the white zone that are not detected by conventional means. These fires have been added into the totals for an official number of 382 fires burning 317,784.4 hectares for the 2007 fire season.

Red Zone	Full fire suppression
Yellow Zone	Suppression if resources available
Green Zone	Suppression if resources available
White Zone	No suppression unless values are at risk

**Table R0.24**  
**2007- Area burned by Priority Zone**

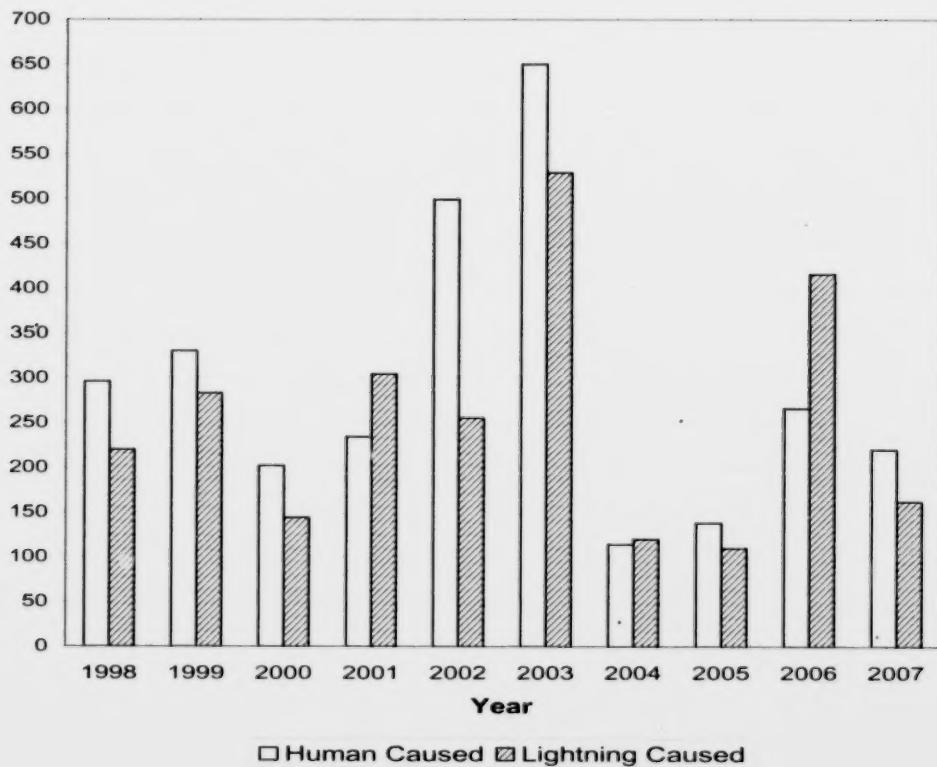
2007	Zone Area (ha.)	Hectares Burned	% of zone burned
Red	11,415,633.5	7,574.6	0.066%
Yellow	685,691.0	21.4	0.003%
Green	9,770,018.8	133,905.3	1.371%
White	23,081,244.9	176,283.2	0.764%
All Zones	44,952,588.2	317,784.4	0.707%

**Figure 3**

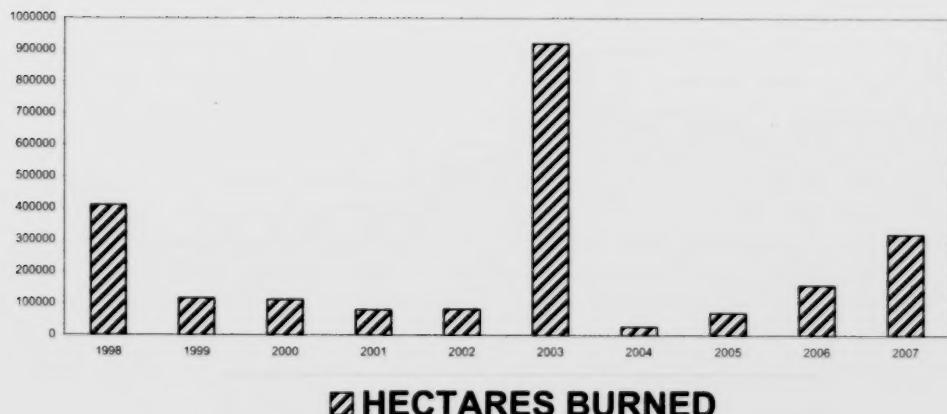


**Figure(s) 4 & 5**

**Number of Fires, 1998 - 2007**



**AREA BURNED**  
**1998 - 2007**



## **Environmental Emergency Response Team**

The Emergency Response program received over 2,850 calls to the emergency response 24-hour line. Of these, 479 were handled directly by the Department's Emergency Response Team and/or Regional personnel. The remaining calls were not within the Department's mandate and were directed to the appropriate outside agency for action.

The Department continued to upgrade and refresh the training of the Emergency Response Team and Regional personnel. Courses included but were not limited to: Incident Command; Awareness, Operations, and Technicians levels of Hazardous Materials Response; Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced levels of chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear (CBRN) response; monitoring equipment refreshers; and Specialist training for Environmental Spill Response and Recovery. Various other training initiatives were made available to the Response Program personnel to upgrade their skill sets.

The Emergency Response Team assists the Police forces in Manitoba with identification, removal, and disposal of chemicals found in clandestine drug operations / marijuana grow operations and helps evaluate the extent of contamination at the site for remediation purposes. The Emergency Response Team has been actively involved in training and preparedness for CBRN terrorism response in Manitoba.

The Environmental Accident Reporting Regulation had been re-drafted for amendment. Due to the recent schedule 6 amendments to The Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations the EA Reporting regulation has to again be updated. This regulation will expand the reporting requirements for environmental accidents to include contaminants previously not listed for reporting. It will help in some cases to harmonize the reporting requirements in Manitoba with the reporting requirements of *The Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and the Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods regulations. The reporting requirements for some products will be more stringent under the Provincial legislation.

### **Table RO.25** **Environmental Accidents**

Total number of calls received by the 24-hour reporting line	2,862
Total number of environmental incidents actioned	479
Breakdown of incidents by accident type:	
• Transport related	96
• Spills during product handling	51
• Equipment failure	101
• Miscellaneous	231

### **Table RO.26** **12.3(h) Fire and Emergency Response Program**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08 \$(000)	Estimate 2007/08 FTE	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	6,275.3	72.11	6,410.9	(135.6)
Other Expenditures	9,615.1		9,339.3	275.8
Less: Recoverable from Emergency Expenditures	(432.7)		(500.0)	67.3
<b>Total 12.3(h)</b>	<b>15,457.7</b>	<b>72.11</b>	<b>15,250.2</b>	<b>207.5</b>

## Environmental Services

Environmental Services directs and co-ordinates the Livestock Section and the Environment Section, which includes the petroleum program, the dangerous goods program, the hazardous waste program, the contaminated sites program, and the onsite wastewater management program.

### Livestock Operations

The primary objective of Livestock Section is to ensure consistent administration of the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation* across the province. This program is supported by the development of procedures, protocols and standards for application by regionally based staff. Regional responsibilities include regular inspection of storage facilities for manure and mortalities, inspection of manure storage facilities during construction, investigation of complaints, response to reports of manure spills and enforcement of regulations.

#### **2007/08 Annual Report Objectives and Key Results Achieved:**

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*Manure storage facilities are constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that minimizes impacts upon human health and the environment.*

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- Registration of manure storage facilities that were constructed prior to the regulatory requirements for permits is mandatory. The registration process provides a process to have the environmental performance of these older facilities inspected and assessed regularly. Operations with 300 animal units or greater are required to submit annual source water analysis reports to Manitoba Conservation.
- 49 permits for construction, modification and repair of manure storage facilities were issued.
- Applications for registration of 425 manure storage facilities have been received.
- The department received 343 source water monitoring submissions.

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*Manure is applied as a fertilizer to farmland in a manner that is consistent with regulatory requirements.*

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- Manure Management Plans are an effective tool for ensuring the sustainability of livestock production by requiring prior-to-spreading calculation of the rate of manure application that is agronomically appropriate and environmentally sound.
- 517 Manure Management Plans were processed and registered. The department conducted audits on ~1% of the plans.

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*Manure spills are responded to rapidly and cleaned-up effectively in order to minimize impacts upon human health and the environment.*

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- Producers are required to report manure spills to environment officers.
- There were approximately 15 manure spills reported to staff including three significant spills of 40,000L, 45,000L and 75,000L. Most spills were relatively minor and many involved failures in couplings, cleanout blockage or sections of manure pipelines during pumping. All but one spill were properly reported and all spills were properly cleaned up and pose no long term risk to the environment. A warning was issued for the failure to report a spill promptly.

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*Program delivery is consistent and livestock producers are treated equitably across the province.*

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- Extension efforts continue to be a priority for the program.
- Staff met on numerous occasions during the year with livestock producers, most producer organizations, environmental advocacy groups, municipal governments, other government agencies and the general public to communicate regulatory requirements.

*There is wide awareness of regulatory requirements among livestock producers and certainty that the requirements are being enforced.*

- Most commonly committed offences that warranted action continue to involve improper disposal or storage of mortalities and spillage, escape or improper storage of manure.
- Table RO.1 summarizes enforcement of environmental livestock regulations since 1998.

**Table RO.27**  
**12.3(i)1 Livestock Operations**

Expenditures by Total Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	421.2	11.00	462.8	(41.6)
Other Expenditures	372.5		989.6	(617.1) 1.
<b>Total 12.3(i)1</b>	<b>793.7</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>1,452.4</b>	<b>(658.7)</b>

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is mainly due to reduced operating costs resulting from part year implementation of the Manure Management Phosphorus Amendment and Manure Management and Licensing Initiatives.

## **Environmental Operations**

The primary objectives of the Environmental Operations Section are to develop environmental regulations, operational guidelines, policies and procedures and to coordinate delivery of environmental programs administered by the Regional Operations Division. Program areas focus on hazardous waste, petroleum storage, contaminated sites, environmental remediation, onsite wastewater management, and other matters related to the environment. The Environment Operations Section provides technical support to regional offices, the Department, and external clients to enable compliance with and promote understanding of environmental programs. The section also oversees the Department's Environmental Management System (EMS) computer database.

Environment Section staff represent the Department on national committees such as *The Canadian Environmental Protection Act National Advisory Committee*, Canadian Standards Association Technical Committee on Decentralized Wastewater Systems, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Soil Quality Guidelines Task Group, and the CCME Committee on Health and Environment.

### **2007/08 Annual Report Objectives and Key Results Achieved:**

*Consistent awareness and program delivery across the regions for Environment programs.*

- New procedural documents were developed and distributed to regional staff for delivery of the onsite wastewater management and petroleum storage programs.
- A new centrally coordinated Environmental Remediation Program was implemented to address Departmental liabilities across the province.

*Commercial clients have access to information, permits and training which enables them to comply with legislated requirements governing petroleum storage tanks, hazardous waste, onsite wastewater systems, contaminated sites, and miscellaneous environmental programs.*

- Existing program specific information on the Department's website was revised and updated.
- A new website was launched for the hazardous waste program.
- For more information, visit <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/index.html>
- Staff responded to requests for file searches for program specific information.

*Management and staff of the Department can utilize the EMS database to enter and access valid and reliable data in a timely manner.*

- The EMS Coordinator trained new Environment Officers in the use of the EMS database.
- New EMS business rules were developed for several program areas.

#### *Other Key Results Achieved*

- As part of the new Environmental Remediation Program, the Department signed a memorandum of understanding with the Water Services Board to cover half of the costs of a \$4.2 million alternate water supply for Grosse Isle that will address historical environmental impacts.
- The Department signed a memorandum of understanding with the City of Brandon for remediation of the former Brandon Scrap site at First Street, Pacific Avenue, and Rosser Avenue.

**Table RO.28  
12.3(i)2 Environmental Operations**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual	Estimate		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	2007/08 \$(000)	FTE	2007/08 \$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	599.2	17.00	711.3	(112.1)	
Other Expenditures	145.8		296.9	(151.1)	1.
<b>Total 12.3(i)2</b>	<b>745.0</b>	<b>17.00</b>	<b>1,008.2</b>	<b>(263.2)</b>	

- I. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to part year implementation of the Onsite Wastewater Management System Program.

# Conservation Programs

## Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides strategic management of Manitoba's natural resources and environment (parks, lands, forests and wildlife) in keeping with the principles of sustainable development.

**Table CP.1**  
**12.4(a) Divisional Administration**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	152.0	2.00	179.4	(27.4)
Other Expenditures	430.7		504.3	(73.6)
<b>Total 12.4(a)</b>	<b>582.7</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>683.7</b>	<b>(101.0)</b>

## Wildlife Enhancement Initiative

The Initiative continued to support wildlife and habitat management projects with funds from a special impost on hunting licences. Hunter-funded projects included:

The operation and maintenance of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), through the production and installation of signs, mowing of sharp-tailed grouse leks, weed control, and access road improvements.

A hunting heritage program that supported organizations and events that promote and encourage hunting.

Support for mentored youth hunting events that provide an educational experience to encourage hunting among Manitoba's youth. The purpose is to introduce youth to the concepts of ethical utilization and stewardship of waterfowl and other natural resources, encourage youth and adults to experience the outdoors together and to contribute to the long-term conservation and management of game birds. Mentored hunting events have been available for waterfowl, wild turkeys, and deer hunting in 2007. It is noteworthy that one adult participated in a mentored deer hunt and department staff are aware of others who have taken hunter safety with the expressed desire of hunting. Further, 3,651 youths purchased the youth hunting license package.

The Department's Alice Chambers-Hyacinth Colomb student assistantship program provides project funding and guidance for undergraduate or graduate students undertaking academic research that will assist the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch manage wildlife, including species at risk. In 2007/08, the Department provided financial assistance and guidance to university students for two projects: Prairie Skink and Hognose Snake. Information from these projects will be used by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Branch to identify new occurrences of these species in Manitoba, associated habitat and management activities that will help conserve these rare and endangered species.

Development of land management strategies, such as forestry plans and practices, to secure the future of Manitoba's threatened boreal woodland caribou. Some animals from selected ranges are equipped with GPS and VHF radio collars to enable biologists to monitor movement and thereby identify critical ranges.

Data are used to identify habitat preferences and examine mechanisms for cycling habitat with the objective being to have habitat available for the future.

Aerial moose surveys were conducted in Game Hunting Areas 16, 21 and 29/29A.

Support to the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre that provides diagnostic services and valuable wildlife disease information and management advice.

**Table WH.1**  
**12.4(b) Wildlife Enhancement Initiative**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE		
Other Expenditures	223.7		225.0	(1.3)
<b>Total 12.4(b)</b>	<b>223.7</b>		<b>225.0</b>	<b>(1.3)</b>

## **Parks & Natural Areas**

### **Description**

Parks and Natural Areas Branch is responsible for Provincial Parks, Ecological Reserves and Canadian Heritage Rivers, managing these areas for the long-term benefit of Manitobans and the environment. These lands protect unique, representative or outstanding natural, cultural, and heritage features and resources, conserve ecosystems, and provide recreational and educational opportunities to over 5 million visitors each year. The Branch also has a prominent role in identification and establishment of other protected and natural areas.

### **Key Results Achieved**

Generated \$10.9 million in revenue by persons using the parks for personal enjoyment, commercial and general use.

Park visitation exceeded 5.4 million visitors with campsite reservations reaching an all-time high of just over 50,000 campsite reservations made.

A made-in-Manitoba Parks Reservation System was deployed in 2006 and won the 2007 Project Management Institute (Manitoba) award; the 2007 Manitoba Service Excellence Team Award, and was a 2007 Canadian Innovation and Productivity Award (CIPA) Finalist.

Little Limestone Lake was designated a Provincial Park Reserve with the support of Mosakahiken Cree Nations and the mining sector. The Park Reserve was then renewed from its original six month designation to a five year designation and consultations began with the Cree Nation on a process to work towards permanent designation of this protected area.

The Red River was formally designated as a member of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) in the summer of 2007 at a gala ceremony at The Forks in Winnipeg, in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference. This brings the number of Canadian Heritage Rivers in Manitoba to four: Red, Hayes, Seal and Bloodvein.

The Park Districts section administered about 6,300 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks. 389 permits were issued for cottage construction or structural modification; 400 leasehold inspections were carried out; and various land use permits were issued. The Commercial Operations unit managed relations with private-sector business operators and special consideration organizations to ensure high-quality services for visitors.

New and enhanced campground facilities continued to be developed under the Provincial Camping Initiative including "Comfort Camping" products such as yurts and cabins.

## **Administration**

### **Description**

The Administration Section is responsible for establishing strategic direction and guidelines, ensuring conformity to Department policies and government goals, and assessing the effectiveness of programs and services offered to the public. This section provides many functions including administrative and human resources support, capital budget co-ordination and the management of fees collected from Park users, commercial concessions, and leased properties. Work programs are reviewed to ensure that goals are met, and that expenditures conform to estimates, legislation, and policies. The Branch participates on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and the Canadian Parks Council. Grants were provided to the International Peace Garden, Manitoba Wildlife Foundation (upkeep and public programs at Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education), Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (water safety public education and programming) and Canadian Parks Council (for the promotion and management of parks).

## **Key Results Achieved**

- Managed park programs and facilities in accordance with policies, procedures and standards to meet branch, department and government goals. Developed park programs and facilities according to the branch current and capital spending estimates.
- Generated \$10.9 million in revenue by persons using the parks for personal enjoyment, commercial and general use.
- Conducted the activities of Parks and Natural Areas in a manner consistent with policy, the departmental mission, and government priorities.
- Provided grants to organizations who implemented activities in accordance with branch policy, departmental mission and government priorities.
- Initiated the Parks District Service Fees System review through consultation with cottagers and commercial operators who are located in provincial parks.

## **Planning and Development**

### **Description**

The Planning and Development Section prepares land-use plans, development plans, policies, and regulations to guide establishment, management, and development of the Park system, to:

- Conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity;
- Preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources; and
- Provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting.

The Section guides establishment and management of new Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves, and manages the Canadian Heritage Rivers program in Manitoba. The Section undertakes environmental licensing and land-use allocation reviews, completes park management plans and provides design services for the park system.

Over the 2007/08 year, staff from the section participated in additional programs both internal to the branch and to other agencies. Examples include:

- Support to the Protected Areas Initiative
- Support to the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site Initiative
- Represent Manitoba Conservation on a steering committee for the annual Parks and Protected Areas Research Forum of Manitoba, held in October 2007.
- Participation on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Technical Planning Committee
- Participation on the Floodway Recreation Committee
- Provide support and advice to the development of infrastructure across the park system
- Review of building and lot development proposals for leaseholders in the Hecla Heritage Village
- Review of development related to the Hecla Resort and Spa
- Review of *Environment Act* proposals, Crown land circulars and related items for proposed developments to assess possible implications on lands of interest to or administered by the Branch (provincial parks, park reserves, ecological reserves)
- Co-ordinates provincial input to national park establishment initiatives
- Consultation with stakeholders and the public to advance park system planning, management planning and site development

## **Park System Planning**

### **Description**

This program is responsible for identifying strategic direction of the Manitoba Provincial Park System, as well as establishing both new and revised park boundaries, classifications, primary park goals and objectives and Land Use Categories. This is done via consultation involving the public, stakeholders, First Nations and government agencies. A major function at present is undertaking the review process required to confirm permanent designations for existing Park Reserves.

### **Key Results Achieved**

- Little Limestone Lake was designated a Provincial Park Reserve with the support of Mosakahiken Cree Nations and the mining sector. The Park Reserve was then renewed from its original six month designation to a five year designation and consultations began with the Cree Nation on a process to work towards permanent designation of this protected area;
- The boundaries of Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park were amended to allow for improved regional land use and to designate new park land to protect Great Gray Owl habitat;
- An area of river bottom forest land and a portion of a municipal road allowance were added to Beaudry Provincial Park and cross country ski trails and a warm-up shelter were constructed on these lands;
- East Paint Lake Park Reserve was re-designated as a permanent addition to Paint Lake Provincial Park;
- An adjustment was made to the Land-Use Categories of Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve to enable Poplar River First Nation to utilize portions of it for a new community wharf, a long-term community gravel source, and for a new winter road to Norway House;
- An adjustment was made to the Land-Use Categories in Nopiming Provincial Park to increase the amount of protected land, and to address needed corrections to this regulation;
- Work with First Nations communities to confirm park goals and objectives related to the Chitek Lake and Grand Island Park Reserves continued;
- Work on the preparation of a document outlining the entire provincial park system and confirming park classifications, land-use categories and park goals and objectives for all parks currently in the system, and outlining priorities for new parks to complete the provincial park system continued; and
- Work continued with the Manitoba Eco-Network to develop an interactive, web-based map of the Manigotagan River to be hosted on the Manitoba Parks website.

## **Management Planning**

### **Description**

The Planning and Development Section is responsible for preparing park management plans, developing park policies and facilitating resource management projects. Development of management plans for individual provincial parks is a requirement of Section 11 of *The Provincial Parks Act*. Management plans address topics such as park use, landscape protection and recreational development, and ensure that the main purposes of the park are considered when land-use decisions are made. They provide details on what land uses are appropriate and ensure that new activities or developments are compatible with the long-term management of the park.

## **Key Results Achieved**

- Implementation of the Management Plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park, completed in 2006/07, was initiated with work to establish a Trails Working Group to plan for and enable recreational ATV use in Duck Mountain Provincial Park that is user-based and environmentally sustainable.
- Resource management projects conducted in 2007/08 include Spruce Woods prairie management, preparation of a Beaudry Prairie Management Plan, as well as caribou research and management activities in parks.
- A major review of the Parks and Natural Areas Branch Directives Manual was undertaken. A number of draft directives prepared in the previous two years were reviewed for inclusion in the Manual and a new directive on commemorative donations was prepared.
- Due to priorities associated with new park establishment and other staffing commitments no progress was made on a management planning program for Birds Hill Provincial Park.
- Manitoba Conservation and Parks Canada continued discussions with First Nations about the proposed National Park in the Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region. The parties agreed to a number of exchange visits with other national parks to seek information and experiences on Aboriginal involvement in national parks.

## **Design and Development**

### **Description**

This Section provides development direction, site planning, and public facility design and mapping. Staff participated on the Watchable Wildlife Working Group with Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and Manitoba Tourism Secretariat; the Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee; and on the Interdepartmental Recreational Trails Committee. The Unit is also responsible for coordination of the Parks Capital Budget and management of infrastructure projects throughout the Park system.

## **Key Results Achieved**

Major projects included:

- Participation in the provincial camping initiative and park building designs aimed at increasing environmentally friendly campgrounds. Planning included campground reorganizations, new bays and buildings, yurt development, and other projects in a variety of parks throughout the system;
- Participation in the Watchable Wildlife Working Group to develop an International Birding Trail with the State of Minnesota and development of viewing sites at Whitewater Lake, Oak Hammock Marsh, Proven Lake, Hecla Island, Pembina Valley Provincial Park, and others;
- Management of the contract with MMP Architects for the design of the Birds Hill Campground office expansion, the Birds Hill shower building and the West Hawk Lake Campground shower building;
- Development of requests for proposals for Duff Roblin Provincial Park design and development, and evaluation into the future of Falcon Lake Golf Course and related facilities, the design of a large public washroom at Grand Beach, and the design and development of a major expansion to Wellman Lake Campground in Duck Mountain Provincial Park;
- Management of a number of potable water systems being designed by Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation;
- Management of the private development of several roads and private subdivisions within Provincial Parks; and

- Planning and designing a number of trails and trail systems in Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park and in Birds Hill Provincial Park.

## **Ecological Reserves**

### **Description**

Ecological Reserves are established under *The Ecological Reserves Act* to protect areas with unique and representative plants, animals, geologic features, natural landscapes, and ecological processes.

### **Key Results Achieved**

- No new ecological reserves were designated. A submission for a proposed Whitemouth Bog Ecological Reserve was completed for future action based on recommendations. Work continued on concluding reviews of previously nominated sites for future designations.
- After many years of discussion and negotiations, an ecologically significant parcel of private land in South Eastern Manitoba was acquired. It is the only site in Manitoba where the three native pines (jack, red, white) are known to occur. The site is currently being evaluated for designation as an ecological reserve.
- The Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee, appointed under *The Ecological Reserves Act*, met three times during 2007/08 to review sites and advance the program.
- Five scientific research permits were issued for studies wholly or partly in ecological reserves but researchers only conducted three studies that involved ecological reserves. Amphibians and reptiles in Little George Island Ecological Reserve were investigated as part of a broader study of these organisms on islands in and along the shores of Lake Winnipeg. As part of a fall survey to band and study bats returning to hibernate in the largest known bat hibernaculum in Manitoba in Lake St. George Caves Ecological Reserve, 20 bats were collected to study the viral diseases that they may carry. Seed pods from some orchid species were collected from Libau Bog and Brokenhead Wetland Ecological reserves as part of a national program by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to preserve seeds of wild plants in support of Canada's international commitment at the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- Small signs to mark the boundaries of ecological reserves were produced.

## **Canadian Heritage Rivers System**

### **Description**

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national river conservation program. It promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage, and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner. The CHRS is built on river stewardship, co-operation and public support. Rivers in the CHRS possess outstanding natural and/or cultural values, offer quality recreational opportunities, and showcase the benefits of healthy river environments, now and in the future.

## **Key Results Achieved**

Planning and Development had considerable involvement in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System program in 2007/08:

- Manitoba Conservation supported and worked with Rivers West to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference in Winnipeg June 10-13, 2007. This tri-annual conference of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System drew over 100 delegates to the banks of the Red River to discuss river conservation. Rivers West is a non-government organization that promotes the Red River as a tourism destination.
- The Red River was formally designated as a member of the CHRS in the summer of 2007 at a gala ceremony at The Forks in Winnipeg, in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference. This brings the number of Canadian Heritage Rivers in Manitoba to four: Red, Hayes, Seal and Bloodvein.
- Parks and Natural Areas Branch also hosted the annual national workshop of the Canadian Heritage Rivers planners in Winnipeg just prior to the Canadian River Heritage Conference.
- Work began on the preparation of the second ten-year report on the Bloodvein River as a Canadian Heritage River. This report was done jointly with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, which is required to prepare its first ten-year report for the Ontario section of the river. The report will be tabled at the 2008 meeting of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board.

## **Park Operations and Maintenance**

Regional Operations Division operates and maintains Parks to provide high-quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor recreational and educational opportunities, while ensuring compliance with provincial laws.

For more details please see regional/parks summaries highlighted in the Regional Operations Division section of this Annual Report.

## **Park Districts and Support Services**

### **Description**

#### **Parks Districts**

The Park Districts Section administers the Vacation Home Lot program, Commercial operations and Special Consideration Organization (SCO) operations under the authority of *The Provincial Parks Act* and regulations including the Park Activities Regulation and the Permits and Leases regulation. The section manages and controls land-use activities and developments on vacation home, commercial business, and SCO lots. Management decisions are prescribed in various legislations, regulations and policy guidelines such as *The Cottager's Handbook for Manitoba Provincial Parks*. The costs to provide municipal type services (e.g. road maintenance, garbage handling, provision of water and sewer) to lessees, permittees and private landowners are recovered from those users through an annual invoicing program.

The Support Services section sets the direction of the outdoor recreation, beach safety and the interpretation programs in Manitoba Provincial Parks and evaluates and implements new initiatives in campground, day-use, backcountry management and outdoor education, as well as customer-service training and volunteer activities. The Section guides and supports Regional Operations in ensuring high-quality outdoor recreational experiences. This includes analysis of operating strategies and procedures, policy review, market research, marketing strategy development, promotion, and statistical compilation and trend evaluation.

The Outdoor Recreation program is responsible to provide recreational opportunities that are diverse in scope through camping, cabins and yurts, and group use facilities through fair and equitable access to provincial parks. The program must ensure that both field and head office staff provide quality customer service. The Parks Reservation Service is a major component of Outdoor Recreation Programs.

The Interpretation program offers visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources in provincial parks. This in turn assists the public in understanding the goals and programs of the department. Live field programs complemented by publications, outdoor exhibits, and audio-visual materials bring visitors in direct contact with park resources and management. It also undertakes research leading to trail and brochure development and delivery of live programs throughout the park system.

The Beach Safety program in Manitoba Parks is primarily focused on public relations and water safety education and is provided under contract at three provincial park beaches (Birds Hill, Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach). Officers provide onsite water safety education and emergency response as required. Provincial parks offer beach opportunities at 82 other non-staffed locations.

### **Key Results Achieved**

#### **Park Districts**

- The Vacation Home Program, in co-operation with the Crown Land and Property Agency, administered about 6,300 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks. With respect to the lot development management aspect of this program, approximately 400 Site Plan Permits were issued for construction or structural modification of cottages, boathouses, guesthouses, garages and other smaller developments on cottage lots. This program generated \$4.6 million in revenue. There were approximately 400 leasehold inspections carried out.
- The Commercial Operations unit managed relations with private-sector business operators to ensure high-quality services for visitors. Approximately 130 commercial operations provide such services as restaurants, stores, accommodation, golf courses, marinas, and beach concessions throughout Manitoba's 80 Provincial Parks. Also, some 45 Special Consideration Organizations offer various educational, religious, and outdoor recreation programs. This program generated \$350,000 in revenue.
- Land-Use Activities permits were issued for commercial fishing, wild rice cultivation, trapline cabin construction, hay and grazing, scientific research, and mineral claim-staking and exploration.
- Policy, procedures and guidelines for park districts cost collection activities were developed in consultation with staff within provincial parks.
- Continued review and evaluation of the Park District Service System in consultation with owners and occupiers to develop a more effective system.

#### **Support Services**

##### **Outdoor Recreation Programs**

- Delivery of the outdoor recreation program in Manitoba's provincial parks including camping; cabins and yurts; group use; Parks Reservation Service; and Campground Host.
- Reservations were made available through a call centre, on-line or through 11 campground offices in 2007. Improvements to the system included the streamlining of processes that would improve customer services as well as reduce administrative efforts, including the ability to manage existing business and extend services at the campground level; development of faster and secure communication networks for campgrounds.

- New and enhanced campground facilities continued to be developed under the Provincial Camping Initiative including "Comfort Camping" products such as yurts and cabins.
- Promoted park programs and initiatives through newspaper advertisements, news releases and handouts. Information included opening and closing dates, May long-weekend liquor-free camping, an anti-rowdyism campaign, and the new Parks Reservation Service. Also included was the distribution of promotional items to community events, non-profit organizations and youth groups.
- Parks continued to support the introduction of 911 emergency telephone service to Duck Mountain, Hecla/Grindstone, Clearwater, and Moose Lake provincial parks.
- Participated in development of the Canadian Parks Council's Youth Engagement Strategy. A national workgroup aims to advance initiatives supporting the engagement of youth in Canadian Parks as a visitor, employee, volunteer or supporter.

### **Beach Safety**

- Beach Safety patrols continued services at the three staffed beaches, with no reports of drowning incidents.
- Manitoba Parks provided a \$5,000 grant to the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (MCSW) for water safety public education purposes, and was involved in the drowning prevention component of the Provincial Injury Prevention Strategy. The MCSW continued to build its water safety strategy and framework, which included delivery of the Northern Swim Program and the PFD Loaner Program to northern Manitoba communities.

### **Interpretation**

- Delivery of the field program included two full-time interpreters at Birds Hill and Whiteshell provincial parks, and 19 seasonal interpreters. Programs were presented at Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Hecla/Grindstone, Lockport, Paint Lake, River Road, St. Malo, St. Norbert, Spruce Woods, Turtle Mountain and Whiteshell Provincial Parks. In addition, Green Team members provided assistance at these parks. Interpreters contacted about 90,000 visitors at interpreter-led events and in interpretive centres and museums.
- Interpretive trails were developed and upgraded consistent with the work plan and personal interpretive programming is provided in 11 provincial parks.
- A new Caribou display was developed in conjunction with the Caribou Advisory board and placed at the Black Lake campground in Nopiming Provincial Park.
- Eight new interpretive signs were produced and installed for the public kiosk at Crescent Beach, West Hawk Lake in Whiteshell Provincial Park.
- Thirty new interpretive panels were developed and installed at the various park units along River Road Provincial Park. This project was completed, in partnership with Rivers West, Parks Canada and the Historic Resources Branch. The signs were unveiled during the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Rivers Heritage Conference held in June in Winnipeg.
- A new "Surviving This Harsh Climate" Self-guiding Trail was piloted at Stephenfield Provincial Park.
- A new outdoor amphitheatre was constructed for St. Malo Provincial Park.
- The Heritage Properties program was co-ordinated in Manitoba's Provincial Parks including building assessment and restoration work.

## Key Program Outputs

<b>Park Districts Programming</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Vacation Homes	6,300
Commercial Operations	130
Special Consideration Organizations	45
Permits for cottage construction or structural modification	389
Revenue Generated	\$4.9 million
Leasehold Inspections	400 (+/-)

<b>Outdoor Recreation Programming</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Number of visitors	5.4 million
Total Number of campsites	6,132
Transient Campsites	4,577 (3,317 available for reservation or 76%)
Seasonal Campsites	1,496
Transient Camping Nights	181,227
Seasonal Camping Nights	44,880
Campgrounds offering reservation	39
Group Use Sites	98
Cabin Locations	2
Yurt Locations	5
Reservations	50,086
Reservation Rate, compared to 2006/07	2,216 more reservations or 4.6% increase
Reservations over Web	57%
Reservations made opening day April 2, 2007	7,906

**Table PA.1**  
**12.4(c) Parks and Natural Areas**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Variance Over/(Under)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2007/08</b>		
	<b>\$ (000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$ (000)</b>	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,899.3	27.19	1,746.7	152.6
Other Expenditures	1,948.0		1,606.2	341.8
Grant Assistance	263.7		263.7	0.0
<b>Total 12.4(c)</b>	<b>4,111.0</b>	<b>27.19</b>	<b>3,616.6</b>	<b>494.4</b>

1. Increase in Other Expenditures is mainly due to Park District Service Fee project costs.

## **Forestry**

Forestry Branch plans, manages and allocates forest resources for the long-term social, economic and environmental benefit of Manitobans. Crown forests are managed sustainably for all users, and harvest and renewal activities are implemented in a manner that conserves ecosystem diversity. Forestry Branch reviews Forest Management License plans, and advises regional managers and enforcement personnel on forestry policies and procedures. The branch encourages diversification and growth of the forest industry along with the efficient use of Manitoba's forest resources.

To limit widespread tree mortality and timber losses, levels of protection are provided commensurate with social, economic and environmental values at risk. The branch advises and assists the public and industry with forest health issues on Crown land, private woodlots and urban forests. Standards for reforestation conducted by the province and companies have been established, and the success of forest renewal is monitored by Forestry Branch.

## **Administration**

Branch administration establishes guidelines and ensures practices conform to department policies and government goals. It provides administrative support and personnel duties, prepares annual estimates, ensures expenditures conform to estimates and department policy, controls funds, monitors efficiency and effectiveness of expenditures and co-ordinates development of the annual work plan.

## **Key Results Achieved**

The Manitoba Model Forest was supported by in-kind contributions, including two representatives who sit as directors. The department continued to participate in the Canadian Forest Service's First Nations Forestry Program. A team comprised of First Nation's organizations, industry and government (federal and provincial) delivers this program, which is funded by the federal government.

The branch managed and administered a grant of \$200,000 to the Manitoba Forestry Association's woodlot program, which is provided through the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund. This program includes the development of woodlot management plans and technology transfer in the south-eastern, Interlake and western portions of the province.

The branch also provided a grant of \$23,400 and staff involvement to support educational programs delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association, including an environmental education competition, Envirothon.

## **Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis**

The Forest Inventory Program is responsible for creating and maintaining a comprehensive, accurate and ecologically-based database of Manitoba's forests.

### **Objectives**

- establishing standards for data collection by the private sector
- monitoring data collection processes
- aerial photography acquisition, photo-interpretation and database maintenance (geographic information system)
- developing and maintaining a database and digital geographic information system for the distribution of digital and hard copy forest inventory information to industry, government departments and the public, and for monitoring and reporting on sustainability

The Forest Productivity Program manages databases and uses statistical techniques and tools, including models for predicting growth, decay, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests. The program provides the

base information to assist in timber supply sustained yield projections, provincial forest management plans and silviculture activities.

**Key areas of responsibility include:**

- establishing and maintaining permanent sample plots to measure growth rates and the long-term response to silvicultural treatments;
- evaluating and quantifying the productivity of forests and forest lands;
- quantifying the risks and losses in forest stands due to decay;
- developing, evaluating and recommending forest growth projection systems that simulate the growth, yield and quality of commercial tree species in Manitoba; and
- developing co-operative systems of data collection, analysis and transfer with industry and other jurisdictions and the development of related standards.

The Resource Analysis Program is responsible for managing a forest resources information base and for establishing sustainable Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) levels.

**Key areas of responsibility include:**

- leading the Forestry Branch in producing a timely, reliable informative timber supply analysis that reflects current integrated resource management strategies;
- developing methods and models for timber supply analysis;
- establishing provincial AAC levels; and
- evaluating and validating wood supply analysis prepared by industry.

**Objectives**

- Develop and maintain the provincial forest inventory database that ensures the sustainable development and protection of Manitoba's forest resources.
- Establish and maintain a nationally based series of long-term ecosystem monitoring plots (satellite plots and field plots) across Canada to measure provincial, national and international reporting requirements related to forest sustainability and climate change.
- Accurately predict the growth, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests in order to determine sustainable harvest levels under various forest management practices.
- Determine a reliable, informative and sustainable timber supply that reflects current resource management strategies.
- Maintain a level of expertise to ensure the section is aware of the best knowledge and scientific techniques available.

**Key Results Achieved**

**The Forest Inventory Program**

Interpretation and automation of Forest Management Unit (FMU) 12 from 1:15,000 scale aerial photography was completed. This information is currently undergoing a rigorous quality assessment.

Acquired 1:15,000 scale black and white aerial photography for a 1.5 million hectare portion of the Highrock Forest Section.

A plan to re-measure Manitoba's Ecosystem Monitoring Network research plots was completed.

A two-day session was held with Rob Arnup to review ecological classification work undertaken in the province and to determine the next steps for broadening the area covered by ecosite classification within the province.

## **The Forest Productivity Program**

SPOT5 2.5 metre resolution satellite imagery was purchased for the majority of quota holder harvest areas and the blow-down event in the Whiteshell Provincial Park and Provincial Forest. Forest industry information was used to track timber harvest depletions for areas held under Forest Management Licence Agreements. Preliminary work to define an updating process has been completed and has been used effectively to update the forest inventory database.

The stem analysis program sampled 350 trees in an effort to expand the provincial database. This data will be used to support the development of site index equations for Manitoba and to update existing stem taper equations.

Preliminary work continued towards the development of provincial site index equations for tree species of commercial importance.

The Permanent Sample Plot (PSP) program re-measured 36 existing plots and established 19 new plots across the forested areas of Manitoba. Compilation of historical PSP data was initiated to provide a more user friendly database. The data will support the development of growth and yield models for the province.

Discussions continued with Manitoba forest industry to establish a co-operative PSP program.

## **The Resource Analysis Program**

A stratified random sampling design was developed for volume sampling in Forest Management Unit 11 that randomly selected 225 stands to be sampled in the 2008 field season. A similar design will be developed for Forest Management Unit 12, upon completion of the inventory.

The preliminary yield curves developed for the Saskatchewan River Forest Section were reviewed to assess the impact of various utilization standards and to determine minimum harvest age. This information will be used in future wood supply analyses.

Yield curves were finalized for the Pineland Forest Section that reflect current utilization standards. These yield curves are currently being used in an ongoing wood supply analysis for the area.

The existing forest inventory was updated to include recent land status and ownership changes, depletion (harvest and fire) and forest renewal activities, riparian buffers and protected areas.

A total volume wood supply was calculated for the Pineland Forest Section, Whiteshell Provincial Park and Provincial Forest. Additional analyses along with a final report will be completed in 2008/09.

Collected and compiled land base netdown information into the forest inventory database on the Saskatchewan River Forest Section to support future wood supply analysis.

## **Forest Health and Renewal**

The Section protects forests from damage by insects, disease and other factors, assists wildfire management and ensures all harvested Crown forest lands are renewed to maintain ecosystem integrity and biodiversity. The public and industry receive information and assistance on forest health and renewal issues from the Forest Health and Renewal section.

Surveys, efficacy tests and research on significant insects and diseases are conducted by the section. Significant pests and diseases monitored included spruce budworm, Dutch elm disease, jack pine

budworm, elm bark beetles, dwarf mistletoe, western gall rust, armillaria root rot, spruce beetle, eastern larch beetle and pine root collar weevil. Forest health data is collected in regeneration, free-to-grow and pre-harvest surveys to develop management prescriptions and track substantially infected stands.

The Dutch elm disease (DED) management program seeks to reduce the impact of DED on urban elm populations by limiting the annual elm tree mortality to two per cent or less. The program manages DED in 37 communities in Manitoba and conducts surveys in a large buffer zone area surrounding the City of Winnipeg. The program is managed through annual cost share agreements between the province and participating communities. Under these agreements, the community and the province are each responsible for the implementation of a specific set of DED control measures. Major participating urban centres are Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Morden, Winkler, Dauphin, Steinbach, Selkirk and Swan River.

The Forest Renewal Program (delivered by Regional Operations) is administered and co-ordinated by this Section. The Section maintains the pool of site-preparation equipment and co-ordinates its use with Regional Operations. Renewal technology transfer to region staff is provided through field trials and promoting innovation. Regional renewal programs are also supported through administration and co-ordination of silviculture contracts and by assisting in the planning and delivery of vegetation management projects. The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC), comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians, encourages the exchange of ideas and solutions, and provides technology transfer.

The objectives of the Tree Improvement Program are to provide a genetically improved seed source for reforestation and to ensure the conservation of the forest genetic resource. The program consists of eight government/industry co-operatives, with Tolko Manitoba, Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company (transferred from LP Canada) and Tembec and six provincial programs. Tree Improvement staff manage and provide technical direction for all programs. All work involved in the maintenance and assessment of family tests and the management of seed orchards is completed by tree improvement staff, and a portion of the costs are billed to the forest companies through the Tree Improvement Trust Account.

### **Key Results Achieved**

#### **The Five Year Report on the Status of Forestry April 2001 – March 2006 was published.**

Fire Program was assisted by identifying values at risk, reviewing Forest Management Licensees' annual fire control plans, digitizing all fires into Forestry Branch's Geographic Information System and participating in the Canadian Forest Service's National Fire Database mapping program.

#### **The Spruce Budworm Program**

Spruce budworm infested about 174,480 hectares in 2007. Emergency funding was provided for the aerial application of the biosynthetic insecticide, Mimic (tebufenozide), on 5,225 hectares in the Northwest Region, 7,099 hectares in the Eastern Region and 5,590 hectares in Spruce Woods Provincial Forest. The aerial application resulted in good budworm population suppression and foliage protection.

#### **The Dutch Elm Disease Program**

There were 6,373 elms marked for removal in the cost-share communities and in the Winnipeg buffer zone in 2007. High levels of DED persist along rivers, especially the Red, Assiniboine, Boyne (near Carman) and Souris Rivers. As of March 31, 2008, 6,467 elms were removed from 37 cost-share communities and 12 urban-buffer-zone municipalities. The program expects to complete removals by the end of spring.

In August of 2007, DED operations implemented a basal pesticide application program in the RM's of East and West St. Paul along the Red River and in the RM of Ritchot along the Seine River. All three areas are in the Winnipeg buffer zone. A total of 5,104 elm trees were treated on mostly private properties. Treatments are conducted in close co-ordination with the City of Winnipeg, which applied treatments to high density DED areas within the city boundaries. It is expected that regular basal

treatments of these areas will, over time, result in a significant reduction in the bark beetle populations that spread DED, which should decrease the spread of DED into Winnipeg.

The Rapid Removal DED Research Project by the University of Manitoba completed its second field season in 2007. The objectives of the project are to investigate the potential benefits of early removal of diseased elms to DED management and to find an environmentally friendlier alternative for the pesticide currently used to control native elm bark beetles. This project is a collaboration between the City of Winnipeg, the Coalition to Save the Elms, Manitoba Conservation and the University of Manitoba as project lead.

The new *Forest Health Protection Act* was drafted and received royal assent in the fall of 2007. The purpose of this new legislation is to protect Manitoba's urban, rural and commercial forests from invasive pests by giving the province the ability to prevent the importation of a forest threat into Manitoba and the ability to control or eradicate an infestation if one occurs. Drafting of the regulations for this new Act were started in 2007.

Forest Health and Renewal assisted the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in monitoring gypsy moth and banded elm bark beetles, which are invasive forest pests.

Forest Health and Renewal participated in Environment Canada's Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program by placing signs and firewood collecting bins along the Trans Canada highway at the Saskatchewan and Ontario borders. These signs and bins inform the public that by transporting firewood they may be spreading invasive alien forest pests.

### **The Forest Renewal Program**

The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC), comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians, continued its work of exchanging ideas and solutions and providing technology transfer. The MbSTC is presently investigating hardwood renewal standards and is working to develop and formalize a procedure to identify blocks that would be exempt from meeting free-to-grow standards. The committee also reviewed and made changes to Regeneration Surveyor Certification requirements.

Tolko Manitoba, Louisiana-Pacific, Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company and Tembec hired contractors to complete their regeneration surveys. The Forest Health and Renewal section tested Forestry Branch, contract and company surveyors, and all obtained Regeneration Surveyor Licences. The successful re-certification program was continued for surveyors who were licensed the preceding year.

An audit of surveys and check surveys done by Tembec, Louisiana-Pacific and Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company was successful. Louisiana-Pacific, the Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company and Tembec were issued a Certificate of Reforestation for successful forest renewal.

Regeneration surveys to determine the success of forest renewal were performed on 4,133.7 hectares. The Forestry Branch surveyed 1,220 hectares, while licensed regeneration surveyors from Louisiana-Pacific surveyed 1,196 hectares. The Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company surveyed 810 hectares and Tembec surveyed 902.5 hectares.

The Branch performed free-to-grow (FTG) surveys on softwood-dominated forest stands to determine if they are developing appropriately (i.e. surpassing competing tree species in height within 14-20 years of age). Two techniques were used, full and extensive. Full-survey technique was used on 2,136.2 hectares and extensive technique was used on 954.1 hectares. Forestry Branch staff tested surveyors from Tembec and Tolko's contractors to perform FTG surveys. Tembec surveyed 1,342.8 hectares and Tolko surveyed 2290.7 hectares.

The Forestry Branch and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 7,774 hectares, including re-treatments. Most of the area was planted with approximately 12.1 million trees that were delivered through regular tendered contracts and non-tendered contracts to First Nation companies. Scarification was used to promote natural regeneration on 773 hectares.

Of the estimated 11,130 hectares of softwoods harvested in 2006/07, 8 per cent (884 ha) were treated for reforestation in 2007/08. The rest was left to regenerate naturally or will be planted or otherwise treated in the future. The majority of hardwood areas harvested were left to regenerate naturally because poplar

regenerates readily from root suckering. About 184 hectares of harvested area that had not restocked sufficiently were re-treated by planting.

### **The Tree Improvement Program**

There are currently 14 seed orchards (62.9 hectares - over 175,000 trees) and 27 family tests (83.3 hectares - over 191,000 trees) across the province. Improved jack pine seed is available for the Southeast, Interlake and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved white spruce seed is available for the Mountain and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved black spruce seed is available for the Lake Winnipeg East, Saskatchewan River, Nelson River, Interlake and Southeast breeding zones. Genetically improved jack pine and black spruce will be available from other breeding zones in the future.

Large cone crops were collected at the Birds Hill white spruce orchard (Mountain zone) and the Brightstone black spruce orchard (Lake Winnipeg East zone), which will provide improved seed for reforestation for several years in these zones. The analysis of the 10-year measurements in the Highrock breeding zone was received from the contracted geneticist and will be used to rogue the seed orchard in that zone. In the provincial programs, the Lake St. George black spruce mass selection seed orchard was rogued down to 2,693 trees (21 per cent of original total) and a small cone collection was completed. Cone collections were also completed at the Hillside Pedigreed and the Interlake mass selection jack pine seed orchards.

Manitoba is co-operating with the Canadian Forest Service in the Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration and Assessment initiative (Climate Action Plan), with Manitoba being the delivery agency for the maintenance of trials near Winnipeg, Stead, Libau and St. Anne. Manitoba also assisted the Canadian Forest Service with the establishment of short-rotation willow and hybrid poplar plantations as part of the Canadian Biomass Innovation Network.

**Table FO.1**  
**Forest Renewal Activities**

	Manitoba Conservation	Tembec	Tolko Manitoba	MFSRC	Total
Area Treated (hectares)	1,813	953	4,084	923	7,773
Area Retreated (hectares)	133	51	0	0	184
Total Treated Areas	1,946	1,004	4,084	923	7,957
Total Trees Planted (1000s)	3,867	1,230	5,625	1,384	12,106
Total Area Site Prepared for Renewal Treatment (hectares)	453	312	33	86	884
Total Area Tended (hectares)	286	100	1,988	0	2,374
General Cone Collections	2.4		88.4		.90.8 hl
Seed Orchard Co-op Collections	20.5	26.3	1.75	6.81	55.36 hl

### **Forest Management and Development**

The Section provides direction in five areas to regional forestry staff and forestry companies in Manitoba with the vision of sustainably managing Manitoba's forest resource in the best interest of the forest and the people of Manitoba.

#### **Timber Administration**

- administer timber management effectively and efficiently
- provide cutting authority, monitor harvest volumes and collect timber sale revenue
- establish, communicate and collect timber dues along with other fees and charges

### **Forest Management Planning and Forest Practices**

- ensure forest management planning is comprehensive and appropriate
- develop appropriate guidelines for forest management planning
- promote environmentally sustainable and economical forestry practices
- monitor forestry operations with regional Conservation counterparts
- develop new Forest Management Licence Agreements

### **Wood Measurement**

- maintain and improve scaling methods used in Manitoba
- ensure that all Crown timber harvested in Manitoba is accurately measured and tracked
- provide training, licensing and monitoring of industry wood measurement programs
- track the movement of Crown timber from forests to mill destinations

### **Legislation and Policy**

- ensure that forestry activities are properly authorized
- maintain *The Forest Act, Regulations and forestry policies*

### **Science and Technology**

- promote improved science in forestry activities through partnerships with the Sustainable Forest Management Network, Canadian Council of Forest Minister committees and with the Manitoba Forest Practices Committee

## **Key Results Achieved**

### **Timber Administration**

In 2007/08, this section issued and administered, tracked and monitored:

165 Timber Sales

2,550 Timber Permits

107 Operating Permits

70,000 Load Slips

50 Sawmill Licences

62 Timber Dealers Licences

In total, 2,207,697 m<sup>3</sup> of Crown timber was harvested in Manitoba in 2007/08.

Total revenue received from timber dues, forest renewal charges, forest protection charges and other fees/charges was \$6,821,875.

A new Timber Pricing System was approved and implemented January 1, 2008. Interim timber prices were established from January 1 to March 31, 2008 blending the old dues structure with the new system. A completely new monthly timber pricing system will be implemented on April 1, 2008. Further work and consultation with industry on the system is planned in 2008/09.

New tracking procedures were implemented, including updated load slips and annual scaling plans. Scaling Plans that indicate how Crown timber is being measured and where it is being delivered became a requirement as of April 1, 2007 for all operators.

Consultation occurred throughout 2007/08 with regional Conservation staff and industry on the development of a new timber administration system. In February 2008, Manitoba and Ontario signed a four-year agreement to allow Manitoba to use Ontario's computerized Timber Resources Evaluation System (TREES). A comprehensive new timber administration system will be implemented on April 1, 2008.

### **Forest Management Planning and Forest Practices**

Tembec, Louisiana Pacific, Tolko and the Mountain Quota Holders Association all submitted annual

operating plans for 2007/08, which were approved by Manitoba Conservation. Annual meetings were held with each licensee and Annual Reports were reviewed.

The Forest Practices Committee, comprised of representatives from other branches and departments of the Government of Manitoba and forest industry, continued to develop guidelines for forestry practices. Conservation published two guidelines developed by the Forest Practices Committee. The two documents "Forest Management Guidelines for Riparian Management Areas" and "Manitoba's Submission Guidelines for Twenty Year Forest Management Plans" can be found on the internet at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/forest-practices/practices/fpp-guideline-pdfs.html>. The committee continues to work on Forest Management Guidelines for Terrestrial Buffers, the Forest Health Guidebook and the Landscape Design Guidebook.

### **Wood Measurement**

One two-day Scalers Licence Course was held in Swan River in June 2007, to train industry and government representatives on how to measure harvested and processed timber. Eleven students from Manitoba Conservation and the forest industry successfully completed the course and are eligible to receive Manitoba Scalers Licences. Scalers in Manitoba are required to complete a mandatory Licence Refresher Course every five years. A one-day refresher course was held in Swan River, Manitoba where seven candidates were successfully recertified.

In preparation for the new timber administration system, regional Forestry Branch staff were trained to measure cull, defect and undersized timber for each timber classification delivered to major mills in Manitoba. Manitoba will determine acceptable deductions for cull, defect and undersized timber that will be used in the new Timber Pricing Model and electronic reporting system. Measurements of these factors will continue on an ongoing basis to support the new timber administration system.

### **Legislation and Policy**

Several amendments to *The Forest Act* were proposed, including changes to improve the department's ability to track timber harvesting and movement, increase enforcement abilities, strengthen penalties, deter theft and ensure compliance. *The Forest Act* amendments will be resubmitted for consideration in 2008/09. Major regulation changes will follow these potential *Forest Act* amendments.

A Softwood Lumber Agreement (SLA 2006) between Canada and the United States was signed on September 12, 2006. Under the SLA 2006, Forestry Branch continues to participate in discussions with the Federal government and other provinces. Manitoba also provides any notifications to Canada and the U.S. that are required by the Softwood Lumber Agreement.

### **Science and Technology**

The Manitoba Forest Practices Committee in co-operation with the Sustainable Forest Management Network delivered a Landscape Design Workshop in Winnipeg in April 2007. Numerous experts from governments, universities and companies from across Canada presented their papers in the two-day workshop. Seventy-five per cent of the 120 participants that attended the workshop were from Manitoba forestry companies and various government departments.

## **Sustainable Forestry Unit**

The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) was established in 2003, to promote economic development through the forest industry. During the reporting year the SFU's role in Crown consultation expanded and consultation relating to forestry has become a function of the unit. At the strategic level, the SFU reports directly to a four-person management committee comprised of the Secretary to the Community and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet, the Deputy Minister of Conservation, the Deputy Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. This reporting structure promotes a sustainable development approach to Manitoba's forests, with a priority focus on economic diversification, Aboriginal participation and co-ordination between departments.

The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) works closely with the other sections within Forestry Branch to ensure co-ordination on issues, such as wood supply, fibre quality, forest management, wood tenure, etc. The Unit is working to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.

As a cross-departmental unit, the SFU is charged with developing a sustainable and diversified strategy for Manitoba's forests by focusing on the following areas:

1. encouraging Aboriginal forestry developments, including (a) resource co-management, (b) business ownership and (c) economic development (training, employment, etc.)
2. increasing value-added processing in the forest sector (including timber and non-timber forest products)
3. fostering interaction between primary and secondary industry

### **Key Results Achieved**

Forintek Canada Corp., a division of FPInnovations, is a not-for-profit wood products research organization. Forintek completed their three-year program in Manitoba in December 2007. The \$1,037,200 program was funded through a federal-provincial agreement. This program provides industry expertise through workshops, plant visits and technical inquiries.

New program funding was announced in January 2008, and Forintek continues to have two secondary forest products industry advisors in Winnipeg and a primary industry advisor located in The Pas. The continued focus of the program is to assist in industry diversification and competitiveness.

In 2007/08, FERIC, a division of FPInnovations, received federal-provincial funding to establish a "Forest Innovation Liaison Officer" (FILO) position in Manitoba. FERIC specializes in areas of research related to the harvesting of wood, transportation and forest road construction, and silviculture.

FERIC continues a multi-year "Manitoba Forest Industry Transportation Study" involving Central Tire Inflation technology. Working in partnership with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, this study could lead to increased efficiencies for the trucking industry.

In 2007/08, Manitoba Conservation continued working with the First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership (FNFLP) toward a major hardwood products development in southern Manitoba. The Sustainable Forestry Unit assisted FNFLP in several areas throughout the year, including meeting with First Nations communities.

In relation to this project, the SFU continued the Crown consultation process regarding the proposed Southern Hardwood Development Project and the potential effects the development may have on Treaty and Aboriginal rights. SFU staff took a lead role in the Crown consultation process.

In 2005, a Crown consultation steering committee was created, involving representatives from Forestry Branch, other Manitoba Conservation branches and regions and Manitoba Justice. The steering committee advises Forestry Branch on issues relating to the ongoing consultations for the Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd Long-Term Forest Management Plan, timber allocation for the southern hardwood development project and for upcoming consultations on the Tembec Long-Term Forest Management Plan

The SFU continued to work with communities in various parts of the province that were interested in developing forestry-based businesses, such as saw mills or log home building establishments. Much of the work focused on providing business contacts and advice.

## Forest Regeneration Stock

All planting stock purchased by the province, Tolko or Louisiana-Pacific is grown at Pineland Forest Nursery. This appropriation is also used for seed collection, extraction, storage, transportation of seedlings to the field and a stock identification system. The reforestation of areas affected by recent windstorms and forest fires will result in increased stock requirements in the near future. The potential increase in stock requirements may be partly offset by a recent reduction in harvesting and therefore less renewal due to the current forest industry downturn.

### Key Results Achieved

Manitoba Conservation purchased 5.10 million seedlings for planting in 2007/2008, and 4.19 million seedlings were grown for planting in 2008/2009. Another 1.25 million seedlings were purchased for planting by Tembec in 2007/2008, and 800,000 seedlings were grown for planting in 2008/2009.

**Table FO.2  
12.4(d) Forestry**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,758.8	55.41	4,145.7	613.1	1.
Other Expenditures	4,953.6		6,203.2	(1,249.6)	2.
Grant Assistance	23.4		23.4	0.0	
Forest Regeneration Stock	1,352.6		1,355.3	(2.7)	
Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Initiatives	(1,274.5)		(1,324.5)	50.0	
<b>Total 12.4(d)</b>	<b>9,813.9</b>	<b>55.41</b>	<b>10,403.1</b>	<b>(589.2)</b>	

1. Funds that were originally estimated as operating costs were classified as salary and employee benefit costs.
2. Under expenditure in other expenditures is mainly due to various Forestry project delays and transfer of renewal responsibility.

## Habitat Enhancement Fund

The Fund provided a grant to Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation in support of the co-operative Critical Wildlife Habitat Program. The grant funds stewardship initiatives targeted at habitat conservation activities, including mixed-grass prairie inventories, mixed-grass prairie grazing management, other land-management activities on program lands, (including native-prairie management), and extension initiatives. It is used to provide some of the provincial match required for Federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk allocations for Manitoba projects.

**Table HE.1**  
**12.4(e) Habitat Enhancement Fund**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08 \$(000)	FTE	Estimate 2007/08 \$(000)	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	50.0		50.0	0.0	
<b>Total 12.4(e)</b>	<b>50.0</b>		<b>50.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	

## **Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection**

The Branch manages wildlife resources to conserve biological diversity, including species and ecosystems within the context of the principles of sustainable development. The Branch protects and enhances habitat on Crown and private lands and monitors the effects of industrial emissions and land use on ecosystems. Resources are allocated to maximize long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. The Branch co-operates with a wide range of clients and groups to promote conservation and to realize optimum benefits from interaction with wildlife. The Branch represents wildlife interests in departmental, provincial, national, and international initiatives for biodiversity, species at risk, migratory wildlife, game and fur species, problem wildlife, protected spaces, conservation, sustainable development, and federal-provincial harmonization. The Branch ensures that wildlife programs reflect the cultural, subsistence, social, and economic values of Manitobans, consistent with policy, procedure and legislation.

### **Administration**

Grants were made to the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (research on wildlife and resource management), the Manitoba Trappers Association (trapper education and involvement in fur management), the Fur Institute of Canada (humane trap development and public information), the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Critical Wildlife Habitat Program), Wildlife Habitat Canada (annual contribution toward the operation of the Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee) and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

The Branch participates in various local, national, and international wildlife initiatives: Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Arctic Goose Joint Venture, Canadian Polar Bear Administrative Committee, Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre, Mississippi Flyway Council, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, National Boreal Woodland Caribou Strategy and identification of critical habitat for this species.

### **Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch Web Site**

The Branch web site ([www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife](http://www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife)) continues to provide Manitobans with wildlife and habitat-related information and resources. Through the web, the Branch is able to provide an overview of the mandate of the Branch, information about Branch programs, volunteer opportunities, contact information, and information on current issues. The web site continues to be an important tool in providing information to the public.

Big game hunting statistics were updated to reflect the latest hunting figures. This section of the web site functions as a resource for those interested in big game population trends and harvest statistics throughout Manitoba.

People wishing to visit the Narcisse snake dens during peak emergence (spring) and return periods (fall) continue to use the web site as a resource. Status reports on snake numbers and den activity are updated every few days during the peak periods, giving prospective visitors an idea of what they will see and when is the best time to plan a trip to the dens.

The wildlife conflict management section of the web site is expanding to include wildlife encountered in urban areas, particularly raccoons and deer, but also coyotes. This site includes statistics on wildlife-vehicle collisions, tips on how to avoid collisions, and urban and rural areas that are identified as "hot spots" for these types of collisions. It also provides useful information for property owners to address their own particular conflicts, such as securing garbage cans, removing pet food and many other helpful tips to prevent conflicts.

Guide licensing information and application forms are now an ongoing component of the web site reflecting the fact that the hunting guide licensing program is now administered by the Branch.

An ecosystem monitoring section was added to the site, with information regarding sustainability and diversity of Manitoba's terrestrial ecosystems, and how they are maintained through environmental monitoring. A current list of ecosystem monitoring publications is also available [here](#).

Manitoba's Conservation and Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou is now available on this Web site.

Dropdown menus are included on the home page to provide quick links for wildlife-related issues that may be considered urgent or critical.

### **General Extension**

During 2007/08, displays at Manitoba Grazing School, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Meeting and the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair were supported by Manitoba Conservation staff.

Staff also attended Manitoba Cattle Producers Association Annual General Meeting

Staff continued to contribute to the Manitoba Envirothon by preparing test questions and assisting with the field day and oral competition components. Envirothon is an annual Olympic-style academic and environmental program for high school students (Grades 9-12). The students are tested in four discipline areas (aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife) and an annual theme (last year's: Alternative and Renewable Energy). The event was held at the Discovery Centre in Brandon and 29 Manitoba school teams participated. The North West Soil Management Association from the Swan River Valley Regional Secondary School won the event and, in July 2007, represented Manitoba at the International Canon Envirothon in New York.

### **National Wildlife Week**

National Wildlife Week was celebrated during April 8 to 14, 2007. This event was co-ordinated with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). The theme selected for 2007 was "Canada's North – ours to protect, the world's to cherish."

### **Legislation**

One Order-in-Council regulation under *The Wildlife Act* was registered to adjust the boundary of Game Hunting Area 31A.

Two Order-in-Council regulations under *The Endangered Species Act* were registered to list two bird species, three plant species and one mammal as either endangered or threatened.

Six amending regulations were registered to adjust six ministerial regulations under *The Wildlife Act*. The amendments were required to facilitate hunting and trapping seasons.

One new ministerial regulation was registered under *The Wildlife Act* to provide for the administration and enforcement of the Hunter Education Program.

### **Wildlife Permits**

The Branch administers permits and licences required under *The Wildlife Act* and *The Endangered Species Act*. Subject to federal guidelines, CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) Export Permits required under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* are also issued.

**Table WI.1**  
**Wildlife Permits Issued, 2007**

<b>Provincial Permits</b>	
Amphibian and Reptiles	1
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (educational)	6
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (personal)	90
Applications Denied (dead wild animal)	3
Disabled Hunter Permit (permanent)	39
Disabled Hunter Permit (discharge firearm)	1
Disabled Hunter Permit (revoked)	0
Applications Denied (disabled hunter)	21
Dog Trainer's Licence (non-resident)	2
Dog Training Club Licence	3
Exotic Animal Import Permit	0
Field Trial Permit	1
Live Exotic Animal Possession Permit	0
Live Wild Animal Possession Permit	9
Power Boat in Marsh Permit	0
Serve Meat of Wild Animal Permit	3
Species At Risk Permit	4
Use Vehicle Off Designated Route Permit	1
Wild Animal Capture Permit	3
Wild Animal Export Permit	1,808
Wild Animal Import Permit	12
Wild Animal Kill Permit	2
Wild Animal Part Dealer Permit	33
Wildlife Farm Licence	4
Wildlife Management Area Use Permit	14
Wildlife Scientific Permit	27
Game Bird Farm Licence	7
Game Bird Shooting Preserve Licence	0
Taxidermist Licence	65
Tanner's Licence	8
<b>Total (Provincial Permits):</b>	<b>2,167</b>
<b>Federal Permits</b>	
CITES Export Permit	1,123
<b>Total (Federal Permits):</b>	<b>1,158</b>

## **Game and Fur**

Hunting is an important part of Manitoba's rich natural heritage. Manitoba Conservation is committed to providing hunting opportunities for all Manitobans; ensuring that hunting has a positive future in the province; and exploring new and expanded hunting opportunities for Manitoba hunters and the non-resident hunting industry.

Conservation is the first priority of wildlife management. However, when additional hunting opportunities are sustainable, and stakeholder consultation has occurred, seasons may be introduced as part of the department's annual process of reviewing hunting regulations.

**The following changes to the hunting program were introduced in 2007/08.**

- Sunday hunting for big game hunting was expanded to include Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 25A and 25B;
- In GHAs 23 and 23A around Riding Mountain National Park, successful applicants in the archery elk draws were provided with the opportunity to purchase an Archery Moose Licence valid for the same season and GHA as Elk Licence;
- In GHA 21 a winter Conservation Moose Licence season was implemented;
- Daily bag limits for Canada geese were increased to five per day in GHAs 25 and 25A and four per day in GHA 25B; and
- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch produced and distributed 130,000 hunting guides and 7,000 designated route maps.

## **Waterfowl Management**

Manitoba Conservation continues to develop and deliver provincial wildlife management programs that protect the integrity of the resource and associated habitats while, at the same time, providing for a variety of public uses. Management of Manitoba's waterfowl and wetland resources has been accomplished through direct delivery of the Branch's programs, as well as partnerships involving non-government wildlife organizations, municipalities, conservation groups, provincial and federal government departments, and interested individuals.

Managed habitats such as wildlife management areas (WMA), provincial parks and natural wetlands are vital to providing places for the public to view and interact with wildlife. Manitoba Conservation has recognized the benefits of preserving and enhancing these habitats, and through direct management, provides safe and accessible areas for public use. WMAs, such as Oak Hammock WMA, attract large numbers of ducks and geese and receive thousands of visitors each year.

The demand for opportunities to interact with wildlife includes consumptive uses such as subsistence use and licensed hunting. Programs directed at recruiting game bird hunters have been expanded to provide more opportunities for Manitoba residents to participate in waterfowl hunting. Mentored youth waterfowl hunting programs are now offered in several areas in co-operation with volunteer groups and participation continues to grow. In addition, special "resident only" waterfowl hunting areas have been created to provide priority hunting sites for Manitobans. The intent is to provide places where residents can hunt without competition from non-resident hunters and to assist landowners who are experiencing crop damage from staging waterfowl.

Conflicts between wildlife and humans have been on the increase for several years, particularly in urban areas. The Department has continued to develop and deliver programs that will reduce the negative impacts of over-abundant wildlife species. These initiatives include expanded hunting opportunities, increased support for mentored youth hunts, experimental studies involving new deterrent techniques, and increased scaring activities at problem sites. Within urban centres, these programs have been utilized to reduce the impact of high numbers of geese where concern for human health and safety is increasing.

Manitoba continues to influence local and regional waterfowl management through participation and input into local, national and international working groups such as the Urban Goose Working Group, the Manitoba Game Bird Partnership and the Mississippi Flyway Council.

#### **Upland Game Bird Management**

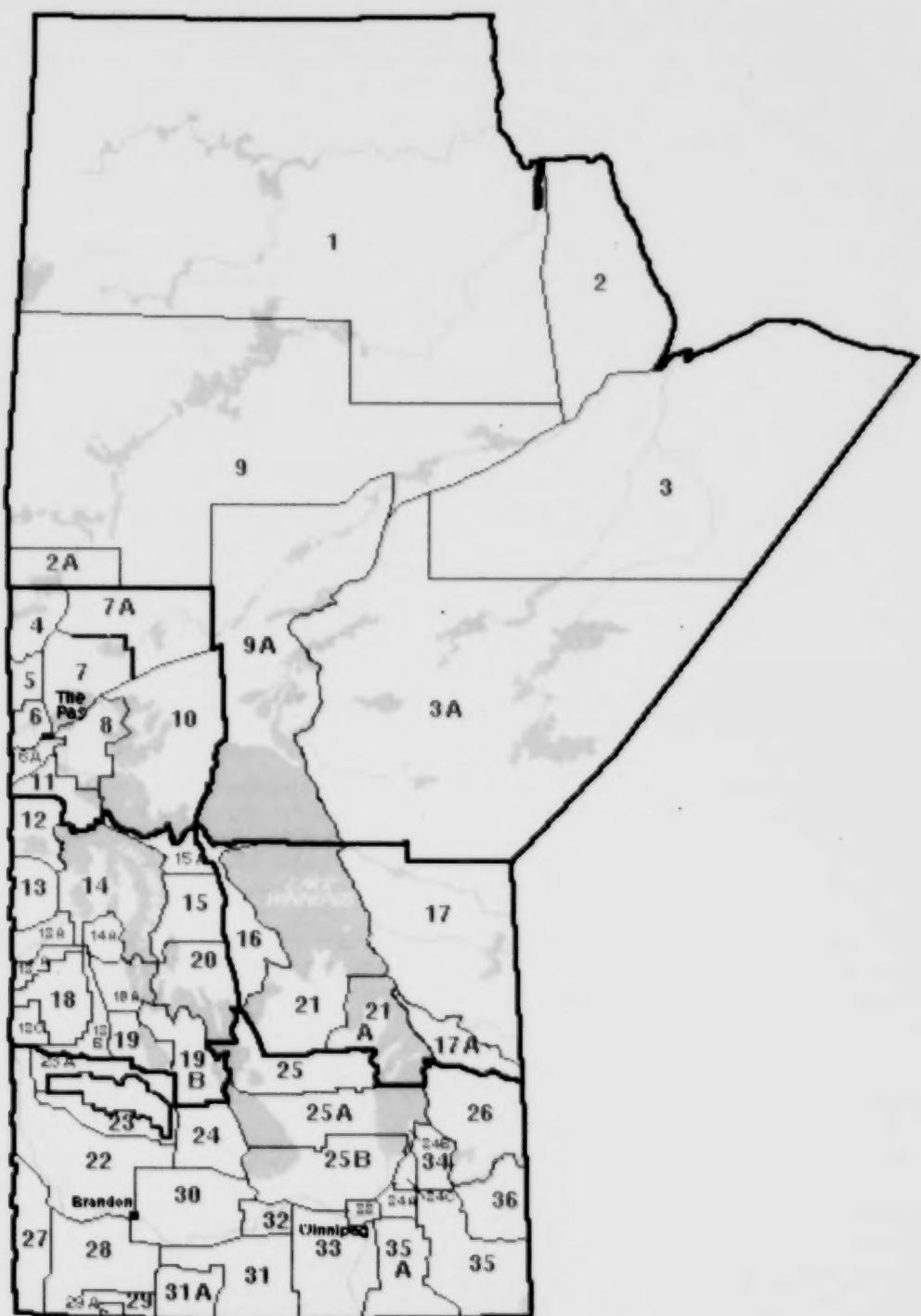
Population trends for most upland game birds in Manitoba indicate that, where habitat has been maintained, populations remain relatively stable. Weather conditions during the spring nesting and rearing periods has a decisive influence on population status. A relatively dry spring helped to enhance overall production by upland game birds, particularly ruffed grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. Due to the widespread distribution of grouse in Manitoba, the provincial population remains stable but does experience the fluctuations which are normal for these species. Maintenance of provincial WMAs has been beneficial to upland populations.

Wild turkey populations continue to prosper in southern Manitoba with numbers now exceeding 5,000 birds. Interest in turkeys and turkey hunting has grown. The Department continued to work closely with Wild Gobblers Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation to remove and relocate problem turkeys from urban areas and rural communities. Expansion of the population into new areas of the province has been accomplished through transplanting of problem birds. Several winter feeding sites were established to short-stop feed turkeys to prevent them from feeding in silage pits and in livestock operations. In some sites, 350 to 400 turkeys were sustained with the assistance of the property owner, the Wild Gobblers Unlimited and the Department.

**Figure 6**

**Game Hunting Areas**

Sections represent Area boundaries of Province Hunting Areas.



### **White-tailed Deer**

Province-wide, the white-tailed deer population has declined. However, in some areas deer numbers remain high. High deer numbers are generally in areas where hunting is not allowed because of municipal by-laws. Normal-to-above-average snowfall and below normal temperatures within the white-tailed deer range occurred later in the year, which resulted in average deer winter mortality. Deer densities were moderate in much of the southern half of the province. A Second Deer - Resident Only licence was available in selected game hunting areas in deer hunting zones B, C, D, E and F. A Third Deer - Resident Only licence was offered in select game hunting areas in deer hunting zones E and F.

**Table WI.2**  
**Deer Hunting Licences Sold**

Licence Type	2007/08	2006/07
Resident rifle season	29,251	29,608
Resident bow hunting	3,320	3,128
Resident muzzleloader	9,258	9,085
Resident second deer	9,406	8,949
Resident third deer	205	197
Non-resident/Canadian deer	685	798
Non-resident/non-Canadian deer	1,264	1,442

### **Black Bear**

The black bear population in Manitoba is considered to be stable to growing at between 25,000 and 35,000 animals. Current harvest levels (six to eight per cent of the total population) are sustainable (3,500 hunters, 1,950 bears). Total licence sales have increased approximately eight per cent since 2000. In 2007, resident and non-resident hunter participation remained constant when compared to the running 3-year average, about 1,400 and 2,100 hunters, respectively. Non-resident hunter participation is managed by quota allocations to outfitters and is reviewed every three years, the latest occurring in 2007. Quality experiences, such as a 75 per cent success rate and a reputation for big bears with a range of colours, are attractive to non-resident hunters.

Direct measurement of populations is difficult. Consequently, indirect methods are used to detect changes in densities, such as field observations by staff, hunters and outfitters; hunter success rates; and sex ratio and age distribution of the harvest. A computer model, using hunter-harvest data and biological samples from hunters and outfitters, is used to evaluate harvest levels to ensure sustainability. Female reproductive tracts are examined to determine the number of foetal attachment(s) and premolar teeth provide their age - these data are used to calculate age at onset and frequency of lactation, and to monitor the potential orphaning rate resulting from the spring harvest of female bear.

### **Moose**

Moose populations remain low in the Turtle Mountain, Duck Mountain, and Riding Mountain areas, due, in part, to the slow recovery of these populations from losses to winter tick infestations and to increased access created by expanding forest extraction activities in some areas. Moose populations in other areas of the province have remained fairly stable, although below carrying capacity. Surveys conducted in the Interlake indicate lower than expected populations.

In 2007/08, 4,631 (4,974 in 2006/07) resident and 179 (176 in 2006/07) non-resident moose licences were sold, which represents a seven per cent decrease and two per cent increase respectively. The decrease is attributed to the decrease in special draw moose licence sales and conservation moose packages.

### **Elk**

Province-wide, the elk population is stable. The Duck Mountain herd remains stable at approximately 1,700 animals and the Porcupine Mountain herds remain stable at approximately 300 animals. The

Spruce Woods population remains at about 600 animals. The South Interlake elk population remains slightly above the population goal of 1,000 animals. In 2005, the South Interlake elk population was estimated at 1,180 animals. The number of hunters for this area was increased to reduce the population to the target level. In the Riding Mountain area, the long-term plan was to reduce the population to approximately 2,500 animals, because of concerns for bovine tuberculosis. Hunting seasons and licence quotas have been used as measures to reduce elk numbers. Aerial surveys indicate that the population is at the target level and licence quotas have been adjusted to maintain the population at about 2,500 animals.

In 2007/8, 3,528 elk licences were sold for resident only rifle, archery, and landowner seasons.

### **Caribou**

Populations of barren-ground caribou are stable or decreasing, while coastal herds (Cape Churchill and Penn Island ranges) are stable. There is a need to undertake aerial surveys of these caribou populations to assess herd status. There were 801 resident and 251 non-resident hunting licences sold. The non-resident season in Game Hunting Area 1 benefits the northern communities and lodges, where employment opportunities are limited. Accommodations, guiding and outfitting are primary income-generating services with spin-offs to other sectors.

### **Diseases in Wildlife**

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is an Old World disease that was brought to North America by infected cattle and can be transferred to a variety of wildlife species. There has been evidence of low-level presence of bovine TB in the Riding Mountain area in white-tailed deer and elk. In August 2006, Manitoba livestock were declared TB-free by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). This has positive implications for agriculture, wildlife management and human health.

Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and CFIA, the main program partners, have completed the fifth year of a five-year Action Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba, which features expanded surveillance, scientific studies to understand disease dynamics, disease containment, and eradication. Collectively, the agencies form the Bovine TB Task Group and review past work and plan for future endeavours.

Over 9,350 elk and deer samples have been examined in the Riding and Duck Mountain areas between 1997 and 2007. In these areas, all elk and deer hunters are required to submit biological samples for disease testing, and PCA conducts annual live capture and blood testing of elk and deer within Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP). In 2007, all hunter-submitted samples were negative; however, Parks Canada detected bovine TB in three elk within RMNP.

Thirty-five elk, mostly from the western portion of the Riding Mountain region, six white-tailed deer harvested in the Grandview area, one deer in the Shoal Lake area and one elk from the Duck Mountain area have tested positive for TB over the ten years of monitoring for a total of 36 elk and seven deer being positive.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease affecting the deer family (cervids), including elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer and moose. This disease has been found in captive and wild deer and elk in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and several states. Despite management and containment efforts, the disease is expanding in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Department will remain vigilant in efforts to prevent the disease from spreading into the province and will continue to monitor and consult with jurisdictions that have the disease, regarding research, management activities and control practices.

From 2001 to 2008, the CWD surveillance program tested over 2,900 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer samples along the Saskatchewan and United States borders in south-western and southern Manitoba and over 1,675 elk samples from Riding Mountain and Duck Mountain areas.

To date, CWD has not been detected in Manitoba's wild or captive cervids. Containment efforts in Saskatchewan and Alberta were monitored. Several initiatives were undertaken to prevent the introduction of the disease into Manitoba. These initiatives include a ban on the possession and use of any substance that contains materials from cervids and restrictions on the importation of live and dead cervids from other jurisdictions.

### **Non-resident Hunting Licence Allocation Program**

In 2007 some 2,100 bear licences, 1,450 non-resident deer licences, 250 non-resident caribou licences, and 180 moose licences were purchased by non-resident alien hunters.

The *Allocation of Hunting Licences Regulation MR 77/2006* was developed to provide more stability to the licence allocation process and to facilitate the collection of an allocation fee assessed on every non-resident alien licence sold by an outfitter.

### **Big Game Monitoring**

The dynamics of some big game populations are evaluated annually to provide input to decisions on hunting seasons and other management tasks. There are three main categories of information, gathered through the following activities:

- Winter aerial surveys of some populations to estimate abundance, sex and age composition, recruitment and distribution.
- Mail questionnaires to estimate harvests, hunter effort and hunter distribution.
- Some biological specimen collection to assess age and reproductive status.

All data are entered into computer simulations (models) to estimate the consequences of alternative management options.

### **Aerial Surveys**

- The 2007/08 aerial survey program focused on estimating the number of moose in Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 16, 21, 29 and 29A. Information gathered from the moose surveys will assist in providing baseline data for management decisions to ensure long-term sustainability of the moose population.
- An aerial survey to determine the moose population in GHA 16 was conducted in January 2008. The survey area was divided into two sections - (north and south) and surveyed as two individual components and the results combined to generate a population estimate. An area of approximately 4,569.5 km<sup>2</sup> was delineated into 247 sample units. The stratification flights produced 195 low density strata, 16 medium density strata and 36 high density strata. A total of 60 units were sampled, producing a point estimate of 155 moose ( $\pm 24.04$  per cent,  $p = 0.05$ ). Ratios of 71 bulls per 100 cows and 18 calves per 100 cows were calculated from the compositions parameters of the population estimate for this survey.
- An aerial survey to determine the moose population in GHA 21 was conducted in January 2008. The survey area was divided into two sections (east and west) and surveyed as two individual components and the results combined to generate a population estimate. An area of approximately 6,530 km<sup>2</sup> was delineated into 353 sample units. The east block consisted of 178 sample units (SU) and the west block consisted of 175 SU. The entire GHA had 321 low density strata, 16 medium density strata and 16 high density strata. The moose population estimate of 346 ( $\pm 21.5$  per cent,  $p = 0.05$ ) was determined from the survey results. The survey results indicate a 70 per cent decline in the population based on results from the 1994/95 population estimate of  $1,230 \pm 29.2$  per cent moose. From the population estimate of 346 moose, estimates of 98 bulls, 188 cows, and 59 calves were determined. A bulls/100 cows ratio of 52/100 and a calves/100 cows ratio of 31/100 were calculated from the composition parameters of the population estimate for this survey.

- A total count moose survey to determine the moose population in GHAs 29 and 29A was conducted in January 2008. A total of 237 moose were counted, about the same as the 243 moose counted in 2003. The age sex composition of the moose observed was 31 bulls/ 100 cows, the second lowest since 1985 and 33 calves/100 cows, the lowest recorded since 1985.

### **Hunter Questionnaires, Big Game Seasons**

The analysis of the questionnaires sent out the previous year occurs early in each fiscal year, i.e. results reported in a given year are for the year before. In 2005/06, approximately 23,650 questionnaires were mailed and 15,438 responses received. The results are summarized below.

**Table WI.3  
Resident Hunter Big Game Harvest, 2006/07**

Season	Licences Sold	Estimated Harvest
Deer rifle	29,608	19,411
Deer archery	3,128	1,253
Deer muzzleloader	9,085	5,918
Deer (antlerless) second	8,949	5,564
Moose rifle	3,202	758
Moose (conservation)	383	50
Moose (draw) rifle	1,258	285
Moose archery	115	12
Moose (draw) archery	41	21
Elk (draw) rifle	2,132	286
Elk (draw) archery	901	125
Elk (draw) landowner	495	131
Black Bear	1,371	414

The questionnaires for the 2007/08 year were mailed and will be analyzed for inclusion in 2008/09 report.

### **Biological Specimen Collection**

Teeth and reproductive tracts were collected from hunter harvested female black bears (in 2005 collection of teeth from males was discontinued) and hunters received a crest and belt buckle for their submissions. Samples were obtained from 65 per cent of the estimated female bear harvest. Analysis of the 2006 samples revealed that:

- 322 female pre-molars were aged with the average age being 6.90 years (oldest aged female was 33.3 years in 2003).
- analysis of reproductive tracts indicates that less than five per cent showed scaring from the year of harvest (suggesting it had been pregnant), and that the average scar count for sub-adult females aged 2-5 (representing 60 per cent of the female sample) was 3.0 and for adult females aged 6+, the scar count was 2.2.

### **Problem Wildlife**

The expanded Problem Beaver Management Program, consisting of the summer removal and winter subsidy components, was implemented for the seventh consecutive year. This program offered a subsidy of \$15.00 per beaver taken from designated municipalities and registered trapline districts. The winter subsidy encourages proactive harvest during the trapping season when the pelts have high market value. The summer removal program addresses beaver problems by encouraging their removal after the trapping season is closed. Municipalities with the greatest beaver problems are in the Western Region.

The Problem Beaver Management Program again included a series of workshops throughout the province to demonstrate non-lethal methods to address problem beaver and to build capacity at the local level. This included the construction and installation of pond levellers and beaver deceivers. As well, problem beaver management workshops were offered in chronic problem areas. These workshops were contracted to an independent consultant and delivered in the communities with co-operation and support of Manitoba Conservation District offices, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and Municipal Corporations.

Other administrative changes to the program involved making the winter and summer components run consecutively, rather than with a long break separating them.

**Table WI.4**

**Problem Beaver Removal Program Summary 2001-2008 of seven top Municipalities and two Registered Trapline Sections.**

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
<b>Total Beaver Taken</b>	12,295	9,296	8,145	7,969	9,248	8,071	6,973
<b>Municipality or RTL</b>							
Ethelbert	502	412	301	299	387	287	251
Gilbert Plains	634	590	486	401	384	322	243
Grandview	646	457	348	180	365	306	189
Mossey River	424	242	164	274	278	48	259
Mountain	603	638	541	623	721	771	779
Park	683	599	664	694	752	597	78
Rosburn	591	156	366	280	195	200	62
Duck Mountain RTL	886	892	1,081	924	899	791	788
Porcupine Mountain RTL	590	416	467	404	464	420	384

Problem Predator Removal Services Program was provided to Manitoba agriculture producers and other property owners through a \$50,000 contract with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). The program provided for licensed trapper action following a predator (primarily coyotes and wolves) claim by a producer through Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC). A total of 85 complaints were dealt with in 2007/08 and 15 wolves, 119 coyotes and two foxes were removed. These funds also provided for a series of predator control and animal husbandry workshops, which were held in four chronic problem predator areas in southern Manitoba for producers and other interested parties. The workshops featured presentations by Manitoba Conservation, MASC, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI), and the MTA. MAFRI and MASC staff provided education extension information on animal husbandry to livestock producers who attended the workshops. Workshops were held in Roblin, Ste. Rose du Lac, Gypsumville, Steinbach, Inwood and Minnedosa with over 200 attendees. Many of these were livestock producers, hunters and trappers. Most responded that they believed the workshops were quite beneficial to them.

The Wildlife Crop Damage Compensation Program, administered by MASC, reimburses producers 80 per cent of the assessed value for wildlife damages to beehives and produce, for deer, elk and bear damage to crops and property, and for livestock loss or injuries from predators such as wolves. In 2007/08, MASC paid for damages caused by 81 deer claims and 111 elk claims to standing crops and stored hay that amounted to \$252,967, while a total of 180 black bear claims accounted for an additional \$252,298. Although another early grain harvest occurred in 2007/08, waterfowl crop damage compensation claims

increased markedly to \$449,213 (242 claims) compared to the previous year when it was \$308,405 and \$342,400 in 2005/06. Damage by black bears to leafcutter bee operations increased substantively from \$8,916 (2006/07) to \$70,293 (20 claims) while damage to honey operations also increased substantially from \$40,521 the previous year to \$135,812 (83 claims) in 2007/08.

This was the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the Predator/Livestock Damage Compensation Program administered by MASC. The number of predator claims increased from 1,462 in 2006/07 (\$434,111) to 1,739 in 2007/08 for a record total of \$522,125 paid in compensation.

It is not known how many Canada geese staged inside the perimeter highway last year. Due to favourable cereal grain harvest conditions, most crops were harvested well before migrant goose populations arrived in the city. In 2006, approximately 134,000 Canada geese staged inside the perimeter highway around the City of Winnipeg. Staff fielded calls from the public about property damage and health risks from goose droppings, vehicle accidents and threats by adult geese defending their broods. There is also a continued high level of concern for the possibility of aircraft collisions with geese. Many calls were directed to Environment Canada, the agency responsible for migratory bird management in Canada and the City of Winnipeg which is responsible for parks and many of the public green spaces within the city.

Through the Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee, Manitoba has been promoting the concept for a national management strategy to be developed that addresses urban migratory bird management. Manitoba expends over \$10,000 per year to address the problems, but it continues to grow. Environment Canada, Transport Canada, and the Governments of Ontario and Manitoba are participating on a working group to address this emerging urban issue.

Another conflict situation is the matter of deer in an urban environment particularly Winnipeg and those rural municipalities within the capital region. The Department conducted aerial surveys of the Birds Hill Provincial Park and area, the City of Winnipeg and surrounding areas. Between Birds Hill and Winnipeg over 2,000 white-tailed deer were observed, of which 1,188 were within the city. There are few natural predators in the region. The major mortality factor is vehicle collisions - 327 deer collisions were reported to Manitoba Public Insurance in 2005 and this has increased by approximately 30 per cent where there were 433 deer-vehicle collisions in 2006; no data is available for 2007. In the Charleswood area, the citizens of the community have formed a committee to review the matter of deer in their community. Manitoba Conservation and the City of Winnipeg staff have provided technical assistance. In addition several residents of the community presented a petition to the Department and the City of Winnipeg expressing their concerns about "killing deer as a means to reduce numbers" of deer. As well, Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Public Insurance and the City of Winnipeg developed a brochure entitled "Living with White-tailed Deer." This brochure was distributed to 32,465 households in the Charleswood, St. Vital, Southdale, Linden Woods, St. James, Crestview and Whyte Ridge, Island Lakes, Waverly Heights, Tuxedo and Crestview areas. Similar situations with deer are also being experienced in other urban areas such as Pinawa, Killarney, R.M. Gimli and other rural communities like Souris.

The City of Winnipeg and Manitoba Conservation staff are developing a "Winnipeg Deer Strategy."

A student from the University of Manitoba initiated a Masters study on urban deer and human dimensions in Winnipeg. Staff from Manitoba Conservation were invited to participate on the student's academic advisory committee that will provide guidance in developing a survey of city residents, analysing the results and preparing the final thesis in fulfillment of her Masters degree.

Staff from Manitoba Conservation also participate on the "Manitoba Wildlife Collision Stakeholders Committee" that includes representatives from Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. Wildlife-vehicle collisions have become a major concern. As some wildlife population numbers increase, the number of collisions is also expected to increase. The role of the committee is to facilitate discussions, and identify and develop solutions that if implemented, would reduce the number of collisions.

Staff also represent the department on the Manitoba Road Safety Coordinating Committee (MRS offense) that has been established as the central co-ordinating body to address the significant human and socio-economic costs of road-related injuries and fatalities in Manitoba. Since wildlife account for approximately 10,000 accident claims in Manitoba, the department is involved in addressing this form of accident.

The Manitoba Be Bear Smart initiative was implemented in June 2005 with the goal to teach people how to reduce conflicts with black bears thereby increasing human safety and protecting private property. The initiative proposes three phases: 1) education and awareness; 2) a pilot study to identify the most effective strategies to encourage Bear Smart behaviour over the long-term; and 3) the positive outcomes derived from the study will be showcased to other Manitoba communities wishing to reduce conflict with bears. Bear Smart workshops and informational displays were held in Brandon, Winnipeg, Pinawa, Victoria Beach and Grand Beach Provincial Park. Approximately 200 people attended the workshops and countless others visited the displays; both were well received by the public. An initiative to introduce a bear smart waste management pilot project in Grand Beach Provincial Park continued to be developed by Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch staff, park staff and district staff, with input from the Grand Beach Cottage Owners Association and the Village of Victoria Beach.

The Problem Black Bear District Occurrence Report database logged a total of 1,398 entries for 2007/08. These occurrence reports involved a total of 1,880 bears and the Department expended approximately \$90,723 in addressing complaints and concerns involving these bears.

An emerging conflict situation, now the highest conflict species are raccoons in urban environments particularly within the City of Winnipeg. The number of complaints the Winnipeg District investigates has risen steadily and of the 645 wildlife-related District Occurrence Reports (DORs), raccoons accounted for 84 per cent (544) of the total wildlife DORs. On certain days, it is not uncommon for district staff to respond to four or five raccoon complaints. In many situations, the conflicts could have been avoided by the property owners themselves by using simple methods like securing garbage can lids, removing over hanging branches from the roof and feeding pets indoors. Nationally, Quebec and Ontario have aggressive programs worth over \$1.0 million annually to reduce their respective raccoon populations in an attempt to reduce the frequency of disease transmission of rabies and raccoon roundworm, both potentially fatal to humans. A similar situation is quickly developing in Winnipeg which will likely require there be a concerted effort to reduce urban and rural populations of raccoons. This species, in terms of the number of conflicts, has already surpassed any other species of wildlife including white-tailed deer and Canada geese and will continue to increase.

### **Furbearer Management**

The program helps to sustain populations of furbearers and promotes optimum harvests and economic, social, and cultural returns to trappers and their families. Both furbearer production and the number of each species sold by trappers are monitored. The program encourages humane trapping and promotes education and public understanding of furbearer management and the fur industry. Note that harvest and licence/permit information is based on the Fur Year, September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007.

In general, the market conditions were favourable as prices held from the previous year, except for otter. However, other factors like late winter onset and record-high gasoline prices caused some trappers to reduce their efforts.

- Marten are the most valuable furbearing species taken by trappers in Manitoba. The harvest in 2007/08 dropped unexpectedly to 15,318 animals, compared to 16,420 animals in the previous year. The late winter onset is believed to have reduced trapper effort for this lucrative species. In the last two decades, this species has re-occupied most available habitats in Manitoba, and marten numbers and the size of the harvest seem to be generally correlated with prey availability on a 3-4 year cycle.
- Lynx cycles continue to recover from the very low numbers in the 1980s. The current cycle approached its trough the last two seasons. The 2006/07 provincial harvest of 686 lynx was down

from 741 the previous year; the cycle tend to be advanced by one year in the northern half of the province when compared to the southern half.

- Coyote harvests reached a 20-year high because of good numbers and increased prices for coyote pelts. The numbers taken were up slightly in 2006/07 to 9,730, compared to the previous year's harvest of 8,566.
- Red fox harvest was down slightly (to 2,175 from 2,251) in spite of slightly higher prices. Very small declines have been seen in the past five seasons, and could be attributed to the increasing coyote population in the agricultural areas of Manitoba, and some influxes into the boreal forest edges.
- An expected drop occurred in the otter harvest, which was 1,018 in 2006/07, as compared to 1,842 last year. Prices decreased drastically, due to continuing export difficulties into China, the key market for Canadian pelts.
- The arctic fox harvest rebounded to 461 animals in 2006/07, after a low of 41 in 2005/06. A cyclical increase in local populations contributed to the higher harvest.
- A continued low average price for beaver pelts (\$27.22 in 2006/07) caused the harvest to remain low at 18,363. At the same time, populations remained relatively high in the agricultural areas, which resulted in significant problem incidents. The Problem Beaver Management Program, which subsidizes municipalities and registered trappers in certain RTL sections for problem beaver removal, is credited for keeping the harvest higher than it would have been. A lower beaver harvest would allow populations to increase and exacerbate flooding that damages municipal, provincial and private property. Ironically, beaver populations may have decreased over the last decade in the Duck Mountain Registered Trapline Section; during the same period, a similar decrease has been seen in nearby Riding Mountain National Park. The reasons for these population declines in not known, but attributable to likely more than one factor.
- Wolverine populations are believed to be stable-to-increasing, especially along the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The harvest was 24 animals, down from 32 the previous year, likely as a result of less trapper effort.
- The bobcat harvest increased significantly, relative to the historic harvest, with 17 from five taken in 2006/07. Their population fluctuations follow a similar trend in North Dakota and Minnesota. This species is at the northern extent of its range in Manitoba.
- Trapping licence/permit sales reached 7,736 in 2006/07, up from 7,201. This figure included 204 free Youth Trapping Licences/Permits, comparable with the 168 figure the previous year. Speculation on better prices for marten and coyote, two very numerous species, was likely a contributing factor Trapper Education graduates aged 12 – 17 in Manitoba like some others jurisdictions provide a no-fee program for youth trappers.
- Staff worked with the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Research and Development Committee on humane trapping devices and manufacturing standards. All approved devices are annually listed in the Manitoba Trapping Guide, along with the timetable for implementation of the Canada-Russia-European Union Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards.
- Considerable effort was again put into education services in 2007/08 fiscal year, leading to 177 students completing the Mandatory Trapper Education Program - a significant decrease from 332 the previous year. Workshop locations included Cross Lake, Nelson House, Norway House, Oxford House, Fisher River, Tramping Lake, St. Malo, Wabowden, South Indian Lake, and Brochet.

- Trapper education workshop instructors for all trapper education events are from the Department and the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). Tramping Lake Field Station was used by staff and students from University College of the North Resource Management Program.
- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch continued to support the "Re-Connecting with the Land" educational program. Its curricula focus on community studies, fishing, hunting and trapping. Developed primarily for use in Aboriginal communities, they were approved by Manitoba Education, Citizenship, and Youth and can be incorporated in any school in Manitoba. There has been considerable support for its continued development from individual First Nations, schools, and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

**Table WI.5**  
**Fur Statistics, Year Ending August 31, 2007**

Species	Quantity	Average	Production	% of Total	Royalty Per Pelt	Royalty \$
		Price \$	Value \$	Value		
Badger	211	53.92	11,377	0.4	0.50	106
Bear	676	79.48	53,728	1.8	1.00	676
Beaver	18,363	27.22	499,841	16.9	0.50	9,182
Bobcat	17	75.44	1,282	0.0	1.00	17
Coyote	9,730	47.74	464,510	15.7	1.00	9,730
Ermine	6,510	6.00	39,060	1.3	0.05	326
Fisher	1,651	90.79	149,894	5.1	1.00	1,651
Fox, Blue	2	21.36	43	0.0	0.50	1
Fox, Cross	112	26.88	3,011	0.1	0.50	56
Fox, Red	2,040	26.88	54,835	1.8	0.50	1,020
Fox, Silver	22	26.88	591	0.0	0.50	11
Fox, White	39	21.36	833	0.0	0.50	20
Lynx	686	129.48	88,823	3.0	1.00	686
Marten	15,318	77.08	1,180,711	39.8	1.00	15,318
Mink	3,333	21.82	72,726	2.5	0.50	1,667
Muskrat	40,579	4.46	180,982	6.1	0.05	2,029
Otter	1,015	53.74	54,546	1.8	0.75	761
Raccoon	2,658	17.37	46,169	1.6	0.50	1,329
Squirrel	6,872	1.22	8,384	0.3	0.05	344
Wolf, Timber	315	155.46	48,970	1.7	1.00	315
Wolverine	24	192.97	4,631	0.2	2.50	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,173</b>		<b>\$2,964,950</b>			<b>\$45,302</b>

**Notes:**

1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995/96 Annual Report, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based on the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2007/08 Annual Report is based on information for the 2006/07 Fur Year ending August 31, 2007.

**Table WI.6**  
**Trappers and Value of Wild Fur Production 1997/98 to 2006/07**

Year	Number of Open Area Trappers	Number of Registered Trapline Trappers	Estimated Production Value \$
1997/98	5,315	2,049	3,306,968
1998/99	4,750	1,856	2,037,022
1999/00	4,276	1,669	1,967,404
2000/01	4,355	1,827	2,769,981
2001/02	4,958	1,764	2,448,804
2002/03	5,503	1,668	2,998,159
2003/04	5,817	1,708	3,039,009
2004/05	5,174	1,707	3,108,794
2005/06	5,504	1,709	3,183,904
2006/07	5,988	1,663	2,964,950

**Notes:**

1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995/96 *Annual Report*, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based on the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2007/08 *Annual Report* is based on contain information for the 2006/07 Fur Year ending August 31, 2007.

**Table WI.7**  
**Hunting Licences Sold 2007/08**

Type of Licence	Fee \$	Number Sold	Revenue \$
<b>Game Bird</b>			
Resident	19.63	11,752	219,565
Non-resident	74.77	654	48,327
Non-resident Alien	140.19	5,326	710,950
<b>Wild Turkey</b>			
Resident	20.56	799	15,724
Resident – Youth	4.67	73	279
<b>Moose</b>			
Resident	46.73	4,410	203,229
Resident – Conservation	37.39	261	19,171
Non-resident	271.03	20	5,412
Non-resident Alien	327.10	182	58,372
<b>Elk</b>			
Resident	46.73	2,675	125,003
<b>Caribou</b>			
Resident	42.06	529	22,250
Resident – Second	93.46	257	24,019
Non-resident Alien	327.10	136	44,024
Non-resident Alien – Second	327.10	115	37,502
<b>Black Bear</b>			
Resident	28.04	1,454	39,475
Non-resident	93.46	61	5,679
Non-resident Alien	196.26	2,078	401,482
<b>Deer</b>			
Resident	32.71	41,979	133,2344
Resident – Second	18.69	9,242	163,841
Resident – Third	18.69	205	3,640
Non-resident	140.19	795	110,896
Non-resident Alien	196.26	1,253	244,270
<b>Youth Hunting Licence Package</b>			
Resident	9.35	3,623	30,359
<b>Total Licence Sales</b>			
Resident		77,259	2,198,900
Non-resident		1,530	170,313
Non-resident Alien		9,090	1,526,599
<b>Replacement</b>	10.00	133	1,132
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>88,012</b>	<b>\$3,896,944</b>

**Notes:**

1. Statistics are as reported by March 31, 2008.
2. Revenue figures are net (less vendor's commission).
3. Non-resident Caribou licences, valid for both Canadian and non-Canadian hunters, are included with the Non-resident Alien totals.
4. Resident Conservation Moose licences are issued as a 2 Licence/1 tag package (261 licences = 132 packages).
5. A Youth Turkey hunting licence for residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.
6. A Third Deer hunting licence for Residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.

**Table WI.8**  
**Hunting Licence Sales and Revenue 1998/99 to 2007/08**

Year	Game Bird		Big Game		Totals	
	# Sold	Revenue \$	# Sold	Revenue \$	# Sold	Revenue \$
1998/99	23,816	1,112,931	59,743	2,423,557	83,559	3,536,488
1999/00	22,096	1,070,616	67,058	2,610,746	89,154	3,681,362
2000/01	19,742	950,234	62,830	2,640,246	82,572	3,590,480
2001/02	18,287	824,802	64,407	2,659,739	82,694	3,484,540
2002/03	17,850	896,328	64,154	2,677,818	82,004	3,574,145
2003/04	18,747	942,929	64,555	2,656,659	83,302	3,599,589
2004/05	17,058	1,036,647	66,594	2,851,505	83,652	3,888,152
2005/06	16,757	1,000,431	66,861	2,851,527	83,618	3,851,957
2006/07	18,367	1,028,879	70,554	2,903,367	88,921	3,932,246
2007/08	18,604	1,024,845	69,408	2,872,099	88,012	3,896,944

**Notes:**

1. \$5.00 per licence for wildlife enhancement was introduced in 1997/98.
2. Second licences for Resident and Non-resident Caribou hunters were introduced in 1999/00.
3. Youth hunting licence package for Residents of Manitoba was introduced in 1999/00.
4. Youth Turkey hunting licence for Residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.
5. Third Deer hunting licence for Residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.

**Table WI.9**  
**Wildlife Licence Revenue 2007/08**

Type of Licence	Revenue \$
<b>Hunting Licences</b>	
Game Bird Licences	1,008,842
Wild Turkey Licences	16,003
Moose Licences	286,184
Elk Licences	125,003
Caribou Licences	127,794
Black Bear Licences	446,636
Deer Licences	1,854,992
Youth Hunting Licence Package	30,359
Replacement Licences	1,132
<b>Total – Hunting</b>	<b>\$3,896,944</b>
<b>Commercial Licences</b>	
Trapper Licences *	39,676
Fur Dealer Licences *	1,775
Amphibian Picker Licences	128
<b>Total – Commercial</b>	<b>\$41,579</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,938,523</b>

\* Reflects revenue for the 2006/07 Fur Year ending August 31, 2007.

# **Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring**

## **Wildlife Lands Unit**

The Wildlife Lands Unit develops policies, plans and programs to secure, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on Crown and private land. It is responsible for the management of all lands designated for wildlife including wildlife management areas (WMAs), public shooting grounds, refuges and special conservation areas.

The Wildlife Lands Unit also directs and co-ordinates Manitoba's Heritage Marsh Program, which includes management for protection and enhancement, studies and inventories to support management recommendations, and the development of viewing, interpretive and access facilities. The Section also co-operates with the Tourism Secretariat of Manitoba Culture, Heritage Tourism and Sport in the provision of wildlife-viewing facilities associated with the Watchable Wildlife Program.

### **Key activities include:**

#### **Wildlife Management Area Program**

Habitat enhancement activities (e.g. control encroaching shrubs and trees on prairie sites to improve sharp-tailed grouse habitat) were carried out at various WMAs. Standard boundary signs were produced for WMAs and refuges.

The local advisory committee for the Lake Francis WMA continued to meet regularly to address concerns regarding water levels in the lake and low muskrat populations. Local guides reported exceptionally good success in the fall 2007 waterfowl hunting season in the Lake Francis WMA, while poor hunter success was experienced in the adjacent Delta Marsh WMA. A draw-down of Lake Francis and the exclusion of common carp proved successful in improving habitat conditions in the Lake Francis marsh complex.

Additional lands were purchased for the Pembina Valley and Proven Lake WMAs in co-operation with Ducks Unlimited Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Progress was made in the development of safety standards for ecotourism and other activities in polar bear habitat.

The administration of WMA Use Permits was improved and permit application forms were made available through the Branch web site.

#### **Wildlife Management Area Maintenance**

The Wildlife Enhancement Initiative funded maintenance and enhancement of WMAs, including prairie enhancement in the Narcisse WMA, road maintenance in the Mantagao Lake WMA and weed control in several southern WMAs.

#### **Land Management and Use**

The Section reviewed over 500 land-use proposals to assess impacts to wildlife habitat. These included applications for general permits and leases, sales, and exchanges of Crown land, Treaty Land Entitlement and municipal development plans and zoning by-laws and amendments. Policy proposals were reviewed to evaluate impacts on wildlife, habitat, land management, and use.

## **Habitat Stewardship Unit**

The Habitat Stewardship Unit is responsible for development and management of provincial projects for the federal/provincial habitat stewardship programs including Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP), management of the Agro-Manitoba Critical Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP). The CWHP is a cost-shared initiative involving Manitoba Conservation, the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) and a variety of other agencies, which are involved on a project specific

basis. The CWHP goal is to identify, preserve and manage remaining critical habitats, especially native grasslands and habitats of unique, rare and endangered species. This Unit also provides the link between the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and MHHC in the delivery of habitat enhancement and protection programs.

**Key activities include:**

**Habitat Stewardship**

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch staff, in conjunction with a co-ordinator under contract to CWHP, is involved in implementing projects in partnership with the federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP) in Manitoba. Activities include development of species and landscape priorities for Manitoba, development and review of projects, review and recommendation of project funding (as a member of the Working Group), implementation and reporting.

Federal funds, matched a minimum of 1:1 by provincial and other partners' funds, are available for projects that address the habitat stewardship needs of species at risk. Although federally listed species at risk are the first priority for this program there are also opportunities to work on provincially listed species. Approved projects target private lands, provincial Crown lands, and municipal lands, through stewardship programs delivered by various organizations to landowners, lease holders, resource users, and communities.

In 2007/08, \$760,170 in federal funding was received for all HSP projects in Manitoba with \$603,420 of that going to Manitoba Conservation/ MHHC projects. Matching funds and in-kind contributions totalling \$1,616,638 were provided by the province, conservation agencies, industry, and community groups in support of Manitoba stewardship projects.

CWHP funds provide a portion of the provincial cash match for HSP projects.

**Tall Grass Prairie Preserve**

The Department continued to chair the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee in 2007/08. Other agencies actively involved in the preserve include MHHC, the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Environment Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The committee produced an annual work plan for field activities at the preserve and the Department funded some of the delivery costs. Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Manitoba Naturalists Society supported monitoring and management activities on the Preserve. The committee directs ongoing monitoring and management activities for the properties belonging to Preserve partners or under conservation agreement.

The Section continued to cover the monitoring expenses of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve biological staff, plus a Green Team staff person who assists with field activities. Monitoring of rare orchids, insects, songbirds, permanent sample plots for plant community assessment, and management prescriptions continued to be among the key field activities on preserve lands. In 2007/08, 6,128 flowering stems of Western Prairie Fringed-orchid and 3,280 flowering stems of Great Plains' ladies'-tresses were counted on preserve properties and in roadside ditches in the area. Small White Lady's-slippers' numbers were monitored at four permanent plots. A total of 259 plants were counted on these plots. Due to time constraints the Western Prairie Fringed-orchid permanent plots were not monitored in 2007. Banding under the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program was reintroduced in 2007/08 and 82 birds were banded. One bird that had been banded in 2003 was recaptured. Song-bird surveys were completed and 28 species were recorded. Sharp-tailed grouse surveys continued in 2007/08 and six dancing grounds or leks were active of the 11 sites surveyed.

Weather station data continued to be collected at the Preserve in 2007/08.

Plant identification signs were replaced along the interpretive trail as required. Ongoing vegetation monitoring was carried out at the grazing project to determine the effects of grazing on the tall grass prairie ecosystem, especially potential impacts on Small White Lady's-slippers. Approximately 50 leafy

spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) patches have been found on preserve lands and the GPS location of each has been recorded. Early in the flowering time (June 14-18) each plot was visited and any plants found were pulled out. Trees of several clones of aspen were girdled to kill the trees and in so doing, control aspen encroachment.

Seven new properties (1,280 acres in total) acquired recently by the Nature Conservancy of Canada were inventoried in 2007/08 and the vegetation was mapped. Special note was made of species listed as endangered, such as the Western Prairie Fringed-orchid, as well as provincially rare species.

The Preserve Management Committee permitted grazing by nine co-operators on 23 Preserve properties totalling 3,280 acres in 2007. At the end of the grazing season the condition of all grazed properties were assessed to document the impacts of grazing activities so that adjustments could be made to livestock numbers and grazing duration if necessary.

The Preserve is becoming well known for research opportunities from various universities and organizations. In 2007/08, 11 researchers worked on approved projects on Preserve lands including studies the Western Prairie Fringed-orchid; habitat assessments for grassland bird studies; soil sampling; various insect studies and grazing assessments.

Preserve biologists also delivered the Manitoba Naturalists Society School Program in May, June, September, and October. Ten presentations were given to five schools. Four groups participated in the on-site field trip as a follow-up to the school presentation.

A float was entered in three local parades (Vita, Gardenton and Steinbach) to promote the Preserve and Prairie Day. Preserve staff organized a full day of activities at the Prairie Shore Interpretive Trail for the 2007 Prairie Day. Ninety-nine registered guests, in addition to 30 volunteers and guest speakers made this one of the best Prairie Day events to date. A number of local families attended, as well, which was very encouraging. There were plenty of hands-on activities for both adults and children.

### **Mixed-grass Prairie Projects**

Inventory and grazing demonstration projects continued in the mixed-grass prairie region in the southwest area of Manitoba in 2007/08.

The goal of the inventory was to determine the extent and quality of mixed-grass prairie habitat remaining in Manitoba. Eighteen new sites totalling approximately 1,760 acres were inventoried in 2007.

In addition to new inventories the project continued to focus on revisiting higher quality sites to monitor any threats or changes in habitat quality since the sites were originally inventoried. Landowners on these sites were interviewed to assess their attitudes and awareness about mixed-grass prairie management and conservation. Twenty-seven sites were reassessed totalling 3,680 acres and 19 landowners participated in interviews. All of the land was used for pasture and approximately 52 per cent is rotationally grazed. Forty-eight per cent of the landowners reported problems with encroachment of woody species and 86 per cent had problems with weedy species, including leafy spurge. Eleven landowners had observed or were aware of species at risk on their property. Most landowners indicated that they would be interested in learning more about species at risk on their land and most would be comfortable knowing that their land management was beneficial to that species.

Two sites totalling approximately 320 acres were inventoried in order to determine suitability for a conservation agreement at the request of MHHC.

Eleven grazing projects were revisited to assess change over time and one new grazing project was inventoried to establish a baseline for the site.

Of the sites inventoried in 2007, 31 per cent were graded "B," 55 per cent were graded "C" and 14 per cent were graded "D." The total mixed-grass prairie which has been inventoried now stands at 181,151 acres with 60 per cent being graded as "C" or better. A "C" grade means it is in good condition or has the potential to return to good condition with proper management.

The Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Project promotes agricultural activities that incorporate wise land stewardship and biodiversity conservation by entering into agreements with landowners to implement the twice-over rotational grazing system on native grasslands. In 2007/08, eight five-year agreements were signed to protect 2,064 acres of native grasslands. Various extension activities including two tours, and a three-day workshop were held to allow landowners with native pastures to learn more about the principles behind the success of the twice-over system, and to demonstrate how the system can be used as a tool to enhance native grasslands for wildlife and livestock producers. Grass biology, prescribed burning, twice-over grazing and improved profitability were the main topics of discussion. In addition, four field days were held for Assiniboine Community College (ACC) students in September. There were two groups of 35 students and three instructors. These students are studying Ag Business, Land and Water Management and Global Information Systems at ACC.

Grazing project staff participated in the Manitoba Grazing School, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Convention and the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association Annual Meeting.

Cattle were weighed as they went onto and were taken off of six pastures to collect data on rate of gain and pasture performance.

Additional funding for both the inventory and grazing project was provided by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

### **Conservation Agreements Board**

Responsibility for the Manitoba Conservation Agreements Board was transferred to Manitoba Water Stewardship early in 2007 and Board activities will no longer be included in this section of the annual report.

### **Ecosystem Monitoring Unit**

The Ecosystem Monitoring Unit is responsible for monitoring the quality of Manitoba's terrestrial environment, which includes collecting data to determine the effects of industrial emissions and land-use changes on terrestrial ecosystem components (soil, vegetation, wildlife and habitat). Data that is collected and the extensive technical knowledge base of the staff enables the Unit to deliver scientifically based recommendations and technical support toward maintaining the quality of terrestrial ecosystems.

#### **Key activities include:**

- Published a report on the results of a detailed study of metal concentrations in soils in Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan. The study was conducted in August 2006. The report was titled Concentrations of Metals and Other Elements in Surface Soils of Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan, 2006. (Manitoba Conservation Report No. 2007-01).
- Sampled vegetation and soil at permanent monitoring sites near Thompson to assess the long-term effects of emissions from the Vale Inco Ltd. smelter on boreal forest communities.
- Monitored soil and vegetation plots at ARNEWS (Acid Rain National Early Warning System) sites located in northern and southeastern areas of Manitoba to provide ambient monitoring data and perhaps some insight into the long-term affects of acid rain and other pollutants on the boreal forest.
- Conducted soil sampling in Winnipeg to determine existing levels of lead in surface soils and compare these concentrations to historic data collected during the 1980s.
- Participated in a soil sampling program to characterize soils in isolated forested areas on the east side of the south basin of Lake Winnipeg. This work was done in conjunction with lake water sampling by UMA Engineering Ltd. Both sampling programs are components of a larger, multi-year environmental effects monitoring program being conducted in the province by Vale Inco Ltd.
- Conducted preliminary visits and soil sampling of Green Project revegetation sites in Flin Flon in anticipation of and to help plan for more detailed monitoring work to be conducted at the sites in summer 2008.

- Helped facilitate sampling and analysis of water samples collected at Delta Marsh and Lake Francis to characterize the water quality of these important waterfowl use areas.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

In 2007/08, 83 development proposals under *The Environment Act* were reviewed, a slight increase over 2006/07. They included wind energy projects, highway upgrades, portable asphalt plants, irrigation projects, wastewater-treatment facilities, crop protection warehouses, bulk fertilizer facilities, battery operating permits, and town water supplies. Ten draft licences were reviewed, as well as the annual operating plans for Louisiana Pacific Canada, Tolko Manitoba, and Tembec. Six Sustainable Development Innovation Fund (SDIF) proposals and one EcoAction proposal were reviewed.

### **Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba**

The Branch continues to participate in the Forest Practices Committee, which is developing forest practices to mitigate or minimize the impacts of forestry activities on ecosystems and the habitats that support wildlife.

Work continues on the Branch's reference document, *Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba*. The document describes measures to mitigate disturbances on wildlife and wildlife habitat from developments and land uses including forestry, highway and hydro construction, and mining exploration and development.

### **Project WILD**

Project WILD is an environmental education program, sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, emphasizing wildlife and implemented under agreements with each province's wildlife agency. Project WILD activities were developed for use in the Grade Four science curriculum. Teachers are required to attend an in-service training workshop, usually conducted jointly by a wildlife specialist and a trained workshop facilitator. Last year, one workshop was held at Brandon University for the education students.

### **Biodiversity Conservation**

The Section provides information and services to sustain Manitoba's natural biological diversity. It contains the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, which links Manitoba to other conservation partners and assists the province in meeting its International, National and Provincial agreements to conserve biodiversity, including species at risk. The authoritative information provided by the Centre is used in a variety of proactive ways, including Protected Areas Planning, Regional Integrated Resource Management, and Environmental Impact Assessment. The Centre promotes the social and economic well being of Manitobans through adherence to the principles of sustainable ecological development.

Section activities are focused on three main program areas co-ordinated by a standardized spatial computer database maintained by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre:

1. Inventory and Monitoring of species of conservation concern, including species listed under the *Endangered Species Act* (Manitoba) and/or the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
2. Conservation Status Assessment of over 4,000 species of animals and plants found in Manitoba.
3. Recovery or Management strategies and plans are developed and implemented for listed Species at Risk.

Other key section activities include:

1. Policy and Procedures development, especially for Species at Risk.
2. Education, Research and Outreach

These programs and activities depend on the participation and co-operation of Manitoba citizens to assist in the conservation of our natural biological diversity.

## Manitoba Conservation Data Centre

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a member of NatureServe International ([www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org)), a network of 80 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere, and also a member of NatureServe Canada, an organization to which CDCs from all Canadian provinces and one territory belong. The CDC completes an annual exchange of data integrating Manitoba's data with the entire network. Information from the Canadian CDC databases is recognized by Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada as being a key component of their efforts to monitor and protect species at risk.

The CDC responded to hundreds of information requests in 2007/08 from provincial and federal government departments, industry, consultants, schools, universities, non-government organizations, and members of the public. Numerous requests related to environmental impact assessments. Rare species occurrence information was also used in the selection process for identifying potential protected areas with the Protected Areas Initiative.

### Specific highlights from 2007/08 include:

- Completion of a successful "data mining" exercise with Parks Canada, whereby Parks Canada staff provided information on plants and animals in Riding Mountain and Wapusk National Parks, and the CDC created new and updated records in its database for those species that were of conservation concern.
- Continuing updates to the CDC database with information on a wide variety of rare and at risk species, many of which had never been comprehensively documented by the CDC before this year, including bird species such as Chimney Swift and Golden-winged Warbler, and a number of butterfly and moth species, all of which have recently been listed under Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA). Work also continued on species that staff of Manitoba Conservation have collected data on over many years, including grassland birds, colonial nesting birds, snakes, and vascular plants. Hundreds of records were added or updated, bringing the records up to current network-wide specifications.
- Successful introduction of wall maps showing road allowances that support populations of plant species at risk in the Rural Municipalities of Stuartburn and Franklin. Weed districts, provincial and municipal maintenance workers used maps to conduct maintenance of road allowances while avoiding areas where species at risk may be flowering or producing seed. A follow-up meeting was held to assess the success of the effort, and to refine maps as needed to better meet the needs of the users.

**Table WI.10**  
**Summary of information in Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's Biotics Database**

Information Type <sup>1</sup>	Plant	Animal	Plant Community	Animal Other <sup>2</sup>	Total
Number of Source Features <sup>3</sup>	3,826	4,790	70	371	9,057
Number of Rare to Uncommon Source Features	3,581	4,066	60	0	7,707
Number of Element Occurrences <sup>4</sup>	2,087	1,097	70	252	3,506

1. The Element Provincial Tracking database allows information to be gathered on plant, animal, community and other elements.
2. Includes elements such as waterbird colonies, and snake and bat hibernacula.
3. A Source Feature is based on a discrete observation. Make up the basis of an Element Occurrence.

4. A specific example of a plant, animal or vegetative community at a specific geographic location. The functional unit of the Biotics database.

## **Inventory and Monitoring Program**

### **Rare Plants Inventory and Monitoring**

Fieldwork was conducted at more than 190 sites by staff of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) and others who provided data to the CDC. These surveys resulted in 111 records being added or updated in the CDC database for 53 provincially rare plant species, including seven species listed under *The Endangered Species Act* (Manitoba) or *The Species at Risk Act* (Canada).

### **Highlights in 2007/08 included:**

- The first ever collection of Gattinger's Agalinis (*Agalinis gattingeri*) for the province in summer 2007. Prior to this discovery, the only other known locations where Gattinger's Agalinis had been seen in Canada were in southern Ontario. Gattinger's Agalinis can be difficult to distinguish from a closely related species, Rough Agalinis (*Agalinis aspera*). Both species are listed as Endangered in Canada under *The Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and are extremely rare in Canada. Presently, only one small population of Gattinger's Agalinis has been found in Manitoba.
- Completion of a targeted survey of possible habitat in southwestern Manitoba using satellite imagery to identify candidate sites for Buffalograss, that resulted in the discovery of Buffalograss in 15 of 21 quarter sections examined.
- Receipt of a report for a new occurrence of Small White Lady's-slipper near Brandon. Over 250 plants were found in a 125 metre stretch of road allowance.
- Fostering close working relationships with private landowners – surveys included 59 parcels of land held by private landowners or lessees who provided permission for access to the land, including a number whose habitats were found to support important populations of species at risk. Follow-up information exchange with landowners resulted in a number of landowners being referred to conservation programs such as Twice-Over Grazing Systems, Conservation Agreements and Environmental Farm Plans.

### **Dragonfly Monitoring**

Manitoba citizens are continuing to help Manitoba Conservation better understand the distribution, relative abundance and conservation status of dragonflies in the province. For more information on the dragonfly survey please visit [www.naturenorth.com/dragonfly/index](http://www.naturenorth.com/dragonfly/index).

### **Breeding Bird Surveys**

Manitoba Conservation promoted and co-ordinated involvement of local volunteers in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). The BBS assesses changes in abundance and distribution of birds along predetermined routes that are surveyed using standardized protocol at the same time of the year and by the same individuals each year. It is especially useful for assessing the status of songbird species that are not monitored adequately by other surveys. Local and national BBS data reveal that more species are increasing than decreasing in numbers. The data also reveals that certain groups, such as grassland-nesting and insectivorous species, have undergone particularly large, and in many cases, significant declines since BBS surveys began in 1966. 2007 was a particularly productive year for the BBS in Manitoba. New volunteers were recruited for several vacant routes, some existing participants took on additional routes, and weather was co-operative during much of the survey period. These factors combined to produce a record number of routes (61) and observers (37) and a total of 230 species recorded along BBS routes in Manitoba during 2007.

### **Threatened Grassland Bird Monitoring**

Although fewer Burrowing Owls were found nesting in Manitoba in 2007 than in 2006, the four nesting pairs that were monitored still represents a vast improvement from the zero to one pair that had been noted in most years during the past decade. Nesting success was also improved as three of the four pairs raised young. Ferruginous Hawk populations in Manitoba continued a recent decline as only 36 nesting pairs were located during 2007. Nevertheless, the species has made an amazing comeback in the province, as it was absent from the early 1920s through 1984. Noticeable reductions in ground squirrel numbers in nesting areas since the mid-1990s has resulted in reduced nesting success in recent years and a decline from the 50-55 nesting pairs observed annually during the early to mid 1990s. As in previous years, nearly three-quarters of the current nesting population of Ferruginous Hawks utilize artificial nests which consist of a stick-filled wire basket and situated in large trees that are isolated from disturbance and close to suitable hunting pastures.

Nesting populations of Loggerhead Shrike have declined noticeably in south-western Manitoba which coincides with widespread declines throughout much of the species range. A total of 58 nesting pairs were located in 2007, much lower than the 327 pairs that were recorded as recently as 1993. Recent declines in nesting success and abundance have been attributed to higher than normal mortality of adults and young in the nesting and wintering ranges as well as on migration, increased predation on nests and young, and to heightened mortality of nestlings during extended rainy periods in recent years. Monitoring of grassland passerines in 2007 supported a recent trend towards slightly reduced numbers and decreased overall nesting range for Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrows and several other uncommon grassland passerines in southern Manitoba.

### **Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Monitoring**

A small nesting population of the Loggerhead Shrike near Winnipeg is believed to belong to the endangered eastern *migrans* subspecies. Intensified monitoring and conservation efforts have been carried out to preserve or recreate habitat for this population in recent years since there are believed to be less than 50 *migrans* Loggerhead Shrike pairs remaining in Canada. A total of 13 birds (five nesting pairs and three unmated shrikes) were observed near Winnipeg and as far west as Portage la Prairie during 2007. Annual totals have remained fairly consistent during recent years, but are down considerably from the 20-25 pairs found in the late 1990s. As has been the case for most years, almost all of the pairs nested successfully and raised four to six young per nest, which makes the recent declines that much harder to understand. As in previous years, all young were banded and returning adults were checked for bands. Although a small percentage of the young return to nest, low return rates of both young and adults suggest that excessive mortality after fledging, on migration, and in the wintering range may be related to ongoing declines in this subspecies.

### **Great Gray Owl Monitoring**

More Great Gray Owls were reported and banded in the boreal forests of southeast Manitoba during the winter of 2006/07. Twelve breeding pairs were observed during the 2007 nesting period, corresponding with rising populations of their main prey, the meadow vole. The Great Gray Owl is highly susceptible to West Nile Virus and ongoing monitoring efforts provide baseline data to assess the potential impact of this disease on birds of prey in Manitoba and elsewhere.

### **Nocturnal Owl Monitoring**

The Manitoba Volunteer Nocturnal Owl Survey had another successful year with 68 volunteers surveying 52 routes covering 856 kilometres of roads and trails. Surveyors detected 170 owls (0.2 owls detected per kilometre surveyed). On average, one owl was detected every five kilometres. As in previous years, the two most abundant species detected were the Northern Saw-whet Owl and the Great Horned Owl. The detection rates (number per kilometre) for these species and many other species decreased from 2006 which coincided with cyclic declines in prey populations.

Plans are underway to share this information and survey methods with others at the 2008 Meeting of The Wildlife Society in Gimli, Manitoba. The survey's results help determine if Manitoba trends are local or

more widespread across the species' North American range. This survey has come a long way since 1991 thanks to the participation of over 650 volunteer owl surveyors to date. 2007 marked the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this effort which continues to demonstrate the value of citizen-based science monitoring programs. As in other years, owl survey information and experience has been widely shared with the public, students, other provinces and countries.

## **Conservation Status Assessment Program**

### **Endangered Species Advisory Committee**

The Biodiversity Conservation Section prepared several species status reports for the Endangered Species Advisory Committee, established under *The Endangered Species Act*, to advise the Minister on species at risk. Declaring a species as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened affords it protection, thereby enhancing its likelihood of survival in Manitoba. Population numbers and trends, distribution, habitat needs, and threats are criteria used to assess the conservation status of species. The committee met twice in 2007/08 and assessed the status of 27 species.

### **Federal-Provincial Initiatives under Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada**

Participation on international and federal-provincial working groups and committees ensures that Manitoba's efforts to assess and conserve biological diversity are co-ordinated with those of other countries and Canadian jurisdictions. Implementing programs for species at risk and biodiversity demonstrates Manitoba's commitment to the Accord and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

**The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):** Departmental staff and staff from Water Stewardship participate in this national assessment process to determine which species are at risk by reviewing and contributing to status reports.

**Report on the General Status of Wildlife in Canada:** In 1998, the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council requested that federal and provincial/territorial governments co-operate to assess and report on general status of wildlife (including plants) every five years, starting in 2000. A federal-provincial working group was established. The second (2005) report was released in spring 2006 and is available at [www.wildspecies.ca](http://www.wildspecies.ca). The 2005 report includes assessments of all vascular plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds, freshwater and marine fishes, and mammals, as well as selected groups of invertebrates including dragonflies, tiger beetles, butterflies, freshwater mussels, and crayfish.

Manitoba is co-chairing this working group from 2007 until the completion of the 2010 report and significant staff time was expended in 2007/08 towards this goal. The results of this effort set conservation priorities for many species at risk and biodiversity programs and future assessments for listing under *The Endangered Species Act* (Manitoba). It is appropriate to acknowledge the myriad of amateur naturalists and professional biologists in Manitoba who donated their time and expertise to help with this and other provincial conservation status assessments. Over the years, hundreds of Manitoba citizens have been studying, collecting and identifying species that contribute to this process.

**Biodiversity Convention Office:** Manitoba participates on a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Biodiversity Working Group that is implementing programs such as bio-infomatics, reporting on status and trends in biodiversity, monitoring alien invasive species, and eco-citizenship, including stewardship. Highlights from this year included:

- The Section organized and co-hosted with Environment Canada the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Biodiversity Working Group meeting, which was held in Winnipeg on April 16-18, 2007.
- Manitoba contributed to the organization and development of the forthcoming National "Ecosystem Status and Trends Report," which will provide a scientific report to the public on Canada's ecosystems and their status. The report will also be used as a resource for decision-makers and to guide government policy development. Staff organized and participated in related

workshops, including one held in Manitoba on March 19, 2008. The section participated on compiling data on Manitoba's ecosystems and wrote parts of the Hudson Plains technical report.

## **Recovery and Management Program**

Recovery efforts were implemented for 25 species at risk in Manitoba, an investment of over \$500,000. Species at risk included Woodland Caribou (Boreal population), Piping Plover, Wood Bison, Dakota Skipper, Ottoe and Poweshiek Skipper, Prairie Skink, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike (eastern and western subspecies), Small White Lady's-slipper, Hairy Prairie-clover, Buffalograss, Ross's Gull, Western Spiderwort, Smooth Goosefoot, Western Silvery Aster, Riddell's Goldenrod, Whooping Crane, Ivory Gull, Long-billed Curlew, Short-eared Owl, Wolverine, and Western Prairie Fringed-orchid.

**Highlights of some of these efforts are presented below:**

### **The Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife in Canada (RENEW) Working Group**

- Manitoba continued to participate on this working group that facilitates the recovery of nationally endangered wildlife in Canada. In 2007/08, Manitoba reported on its recovery efforts at working group meetings and this information will be incorporated into the national report to better reflect Manitoba's commitment to recovery efforts.

### **Plant Species at Risk Recovery**

- Collaboration with the National Recovery Team for Plant Species at Risk in Prairie Canada continued. Representatives from provincial and federal agencies in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have agreed to work co-operatively to meet national recovery requirements for SARA-listed plant species found in two or more Prairie Provinces, including Buffalograss, Western Spiderwort, Hairy Prairie-clover, and Smooth Goosefoot. The national recovery strategy for Buffalograss was completed in 2007/08 by this team; other strategies are in development.
- Completion of a national recovery strategy for Flooded Jellyskin lichen, in collaboration with Environment Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the National Capital Commission, and other stakeholders.
- Collaboration with Environment Canada and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources continued toward the completion of national recovery strategies for Western Silvery Aster and Small White Lady's-slipper; final strategies should be posted in 2008/09.
- Activities contributing to the recovery of all plant species at risk included surveys for new locations and monitoring of known locations, dissemination of information on species to researchers conducting recovery-related work, and to conversation-minded organizations for activities such as watershed planning and development of conservation agreements, and development of new extension materials on species at risk such as fact sheets and updated web site content.

### **Boreal Woodland Caribou Recovery**

- Manitoba declared Boreal Woodland Caribou as a threatened species in 2006 and a "Conservation and Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou" was published. Manitoba is represented on Canada's National Boreal Woodland Caribou technical committee by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch which is developing a national strategy for Canada. The Branch is also represented on a committee examining ways of identifying critical habitat for this species. This document will be available early in the next fiscal year.
- Manitoba continues to work closely with the forest industry, other stakeholders and First Nations to protect boreal caribou habitat and to ensure there is an adequate supply of their life requirements over the long-term. Toward this end there are caribou radio-collared with both GPS and VHF collars east of Lake Winnipeg and in the Snow Lake area. The former are changed on

an annual basis and the data downloaded and analyzed. Approximately \$500,000 was spent on this species in the 2007/08. Activities are focused east of Lake Winnipeg and in the Snow Lake area and a new caribou committee has begun operation in Thompson and involves various stakeholders and First Nations. In addition, Manitoba Conservation is co-operating with university researchers who are developing non-intrusive technologies to generate population data.

### **Butterfly Species at Risk**

Recovery activities of butterfly species at risk have expanded from an initial focus on reintroducing the Dakota Skipper to the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve (TGPP) to include research and monitoring of additional species, including the Ottoe and Poweshiek Skipper, in co-operation with researchers from the University of Winnipeg. Efforts are being made to recruit a graduate student to examine the relationship between life history and biology of the Poweshiek skipper and management options in the TGPP.

### **Prairie Skink Recovery**

The Manitoba Prairie Skink Recovery Team completed a draft Recovery Strategy and Action Plan. Work continued on developing citizen-based monitoring guidelines, fact sheet, and habitat stewardship guidelines. The team also identified research priorities and outreach opportunities for 2007/08. Field inventories and monitoring were conducted under the supervision of University of Brandon professor Dr. Pamela Rutherford, with plans to expand research efforts on the Hognose Snake in 2008/09.

### **Peregrine Falcon Recovery**

Peregrine Falcon Recovery efforts have been ongoing in Manitoba since 1981. During this time, over 170 young peregrines have been raised for release (by a process known as "hacking") from locations in Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Gimli. Returns of hacked birds and their progeny from Manitoba and other mid-western releases eventually resulted in up-to-three free-nesting pairs establishing in downtown Winnipeg and one to two pairs nesting annually in downtown Brandon. During 2007, two pairs nested in Winnipeg and one in Brandon. A nest-cam was set up to allow the public to follow the progress of a nest on the Radisson Hotel in downtown Winnipeg, a site which has been occupied during most years since 1989. Three young were successfully raised at this nest in 2007; this nesting site has produced almost 50 chicks since the late 1980s. A second pair nested on an upper balcony of apartment building in west-central Winnipeg during 2007. This pair was believed to be first-time nesters which despite their valiant attempts at incubation failed to hatch any of the three eggs. The downtown Brandon pair once again nested in a nesting box near the top of the MacKenzie Seed Building. This pair, which has successfully nested on this building during most years in the past decade, successfully reared four young in 2007.

Parkland Mews, in partnership with Manitoba Conservation, captive bred four young falcons during 2007, two of which were released into the wild. The captive breeding facility for this raptor will help ensure continued success with recovery efforts for this Endangered Manitoba species and is a key part of Manitoba's recovery plan for this species. Parkland Mews also completed construction of an over-wintering facility and initiated construction on a new education resource building.

### **Piping Plover Recovery**

The Piping Plover Recovery Program received financial support from the Manitoba Special Conservation Fund, the federal Habitat Stewardship Fund and from Manitoba Hydro during 2007. Piping Plover nesting populations in Manitoba have declined from 130 birds in 1990 to a low of eight nesting birds (four pairs) in 2006. Recent declines in Manitoba have been largely attributed to habitat loss caused by above-normal water levels that have persisted in some of the best nesting lakes and increased vegetation encroachment at many former nesting beaches on Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg. Increased human disturbance at popular nesting beaches and increased predation on nests and chicks have also been linked with reduced nesting success.

Intensive management and stewardship efforts that have been carried out in Manitoba during recent years have resulted in increased nesting success and more young being raised in recent years. As a result, more birds are expected to return, which appeared to be borne out by the numbers of adults seen on Lake Winnipeg in 2007. In contrast to 2006 when only eight plovers were found nesting (all at Grand Beach), a total of 14 adult plovers were observed at four sites on Lake Winnipeg during 2007. Pairs were observed near Gimli and Riverton on the west end of the lake, a single pair successfully nested at Elk Island for the first time in over a decade, and four pairs nested at Grand Beach. Efforts to restore habitat at West Grand Beach, which had become overgrown with shrubby vegetation, produced immediate results as a pair nested and raised young at that site. One other pair that utilized a parking lot at Grand Beach was successful. Two other pairs at Grand Beach failed to raise young, one nest succumbing to high water levels during a particularly violent storm event, and the other abandoning their nest due possibly to disturbance from predators and heavy recreational activities that occurred near the nesting area. Nevertheless, the seven chicks that were raised by the five nesting pairs is better than long-term productivity for pairs in that area, and approaches the 1.25 chicks per nesting pair target outlined in the National Piping Plover Recovery Strategy.

Stewardship and recovery activities undertaken in 2007 included early installation of protective fencing and signage at all major nesting sites to reduce chances of nests or pairs being disturbed by human recreational activities, temporary fencing and signage erected around feeding areas frequented by family groups, intensive all-day observations of plover family groups during the first two weeks to insure maximum survival of young, and communicating and working with the public and parks staff to eliminate disturbance to pairs, nests and chicks. Exclosure cages were also installed on all nests to protect them from predators, and a Piping Plover Guardian Program at Grand Beach increased public awareness and participation in conservation measures at this key nesting site.

### **Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery**

The Eastern Manitoba Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Action Group, which includes representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Hydro, Ducks Unlimited, the Portage Natural History Group and the City of Winnipeg, co-ordinates provincial recovery efforts for eastern Loggerhead Shrikes. Recovery efforts during 2007 were supported by funding from the provincial Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF), Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Hydro. Stewardship initiatives included increased monitoring and protection of nests to maximize productivity, and working with school groups and landowners to increase local awareness. Shrike reports were also solicited by articles in newspapers and on the radio; notices to birdwatchers and naturalists; and an educational display on eastern Loggerhead Shrikes at Oak Hammock Marsh.

### **Grassland Birds at Risk Recovery Program**

Manitoba's Threatened Grassland Birds Program oversees monitoring and recovery efforts for threatened and declining grassland birds in southern Manitoba. Recovery efforts for Burrowing Owls in 2007 included work with a group of concerned landowners in the Glenboro area to ensure that Manitoba's eastern-most nesting pair of Burrowing Owls was successful; work with the Tiger Hills Conservation District in that same area to initiate efforts to install predator-proof artificial nesting burrows in suitable nesting pastures throughout that area; and regular communication with conservation groups and landowners in suitable nesting areas in the southwest to maximize breeding success for nesting pairs in those areas.

Recovery efforts for Ferruginous Hawks have included installation of artificial nests in sturdy trees near suitable foraging pastures and in sites where pairs would not be subjected to disturbance. During the late 1980s and 1990s, over 400 artificial nests were erected in Manitoba. During the past decade, more than three-quarters of the nesting Ferruginous pairs have nested in artificial nests, resulting in higher reproductive success of nesting pairs in these areas.

- Efforts to stem the decline of Loggerhead Shrikes in southern Manitoba have been more challenging since reasons for the decline are not always obvious. Recent efforts have focussed on gaining a better understanding on limiting factors and return rates. Nesting covers that have been installed in areas where predators appear to be a problem have proven to be effective in

improving reproductive success. Increasing numbers of young raised in these areas is critical to maintenance of these populations as young shrikes tend to return to nesting areas where they were raised. To obtain data on survival and return rates, young in monitored nests are banded and returning adults are examined with binoculars on an annual basis.

### **Chitek Lake Wood Bison Recovery and Management**

The last population survey in February 2007 found 201 bison, including 43 calves, giving a population estimate of approximately 250 animals. The herd has grown steadily since 21 bison were introduced in two groups in 1991 and 1996, and calves have been reported through the summer and fall of 2007 making it likely that the herd has continued to increase in size. The next survey will be flown in winter 2008.

Chitek Lake is located within the traditional use area of Skownan First Nation and Manitoba Conservation is working co-operatively with the First Nation to develop and implement a Wood Bison Management Plan.

### **Species at Risk Policy and Procedures**

A draft Manitoba Species at Risk Policy and Procedures was reviewed by the Interdepartmental Directors Group (IDG) and was forwarded to the Executive Management Committee for approval.

### **Education, Research and Outreach**

#### **Endangered Species and Biodiversity**

Three presentations about Endangered Species and Biodiversity were given during the year as follows:

1. A presentation entitled "Manitoba's Endangered Species and Biodiversity Programs and the Role of the Conservation Data Centre" was delivered to representatives of the Governments of Yukon and Environment Canada in Whitehorse, Yukon.
2. A presentation on "Manitoba's Endangered Species and Biodiversity Programs" to the Rural Municipal Governments of Stuartburn and Franklin in Vita, Manitoba.
3. A presentation entitled "Are Manitoba's protected areas protecting Manitoba's rare, threatened and endangered species?" at the Annual Parks and Protected Areas Research Forum of Manitoba: Landscapes, Wildlife and People: The Great Balancing Act, in Winnipeg, Manitoba

#### **Prairie Skink**

- A new educational resource on Manitoba's only lizard, the prairie skink ([www.naturenorth.com](http://www.naturenorth.com)) was created by NatureNorth with financial and in-kind assistance from Manitoba Conservation.
- A "Skink Festival" was initiated in August 2007 by Manitoba Conservation in partnership with Spruce Woods Provincial Park and Brandon University at Spruce Woods. The guided field trip walk, Skink Mascot Costume, and face painting were popular features with those who attended.

#### **Dragonfly**

- A web-based resource on Manitoba dragonflies ([www.naturenorth.com](http://www.naturenorth.com)) was completed by NatureNorth with financial and in-kind assistance from Manitoba Conservation.
- A presentation was made entitled "Manitoba Dragonflies: Diversity, Ecology and Conservation Status" at the Manitoba Dragonfly Project's Second Annual Festival of Dragonflies held at Oak Hammock Marsh on July 21-22, 2007.

## **Red-sided Garter Snake**

The hibernacula at Narcisse remain popular with Manitobans and non-residents who visit each spring to watch the snakes emerge. The abundance of snakes in the Interlake also continues to attract scientists from several major universities in the United States to study the ecology, physiology and reproductive biology of the species.

## **Owl Conservation**

A number of owl conservation presentations were delivered in the following locations:

- A keynote address on "Current Great Gray Owl management: a global perspective" and "A Review of Great Gray Owl Survey and Monitoring Methods" at Yosemite National Park, California.
- An ecology field for the Department of Environment and Geography's Biogeography Course, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources, University of Manitoba.
- An "Owl Survey and Monitoring Workshop" and two talks entitled "Correlations of Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) indices in southern Wisconsin, USA with owl and small mammal surveys in Manitoba, Canada, 1986-2006" and "A citizen science based approach to monitoring nocturnal owl populations in Canada" were presented at the 2007 World Owl Conference, Groningen, The Netherlands.
- An "Ode to Lady Gray'l" was delivered at a reception to honour the memory of Lady Gray'l and to celebrate the 20th anniversary naming The Great Gray Owl Manitoba's Provincial Bird Emblem at Government House, Winnipeg.

## **Cougar**

- The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch held information sessions for the public in Grand Beach Provincial Park and the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. The Branch was also invited to provide information on the status of cougar in Manitoba at conferences, workshops or special events at Inglis, Swan River and Alonsa. The sessions conveyed information on the biology and ecology of the species and advised people what to do if they encounter a cougar. All of the sessions were well attended, with a total of approximately 600 people attending.

## **Polar Bear Education and Outreach**

Section staff participated for the fourth year in an educational program for high school students organized by Polar Bears International, a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation of polar bears through education. Fifteen high school students from Canada, USA, Australia and Denmark travelled to Winnipeg and Churchill to learn about polar bear biology and issues in polar bear management. The program also provided an opportunity for students to learn first-hand about the impact of climate change on the arctic.

Two outstanding high school students were the recipients of the department's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Biodiversity Conservation Award at the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium. The award consists of a scholarship provided by Polar Bears International to attend the Churchill camp on climate change and its impacts on polar bears and is presented to exemplary projects at the Intermediate Level in Animal Biology or Environmental Studies. Section staff judged projects and interviewed finalists to select the winners.

## **Research**

Manitoba Conservation staff supervised and/or served on graduate student committees including:

- Ph.D. student Christian Artuso, Faculty of Environment, University of Manitoba, assessing the population density and habitat preferences of the eastern screech owl in Winnipeg and surrounding areas. The habits of the eastern screech owl are poorly understood in Manitoba, and monitoring this

environmental "barometer" in urban areas provides information on how cities can be sustainable habitats for wildlife.

- M.N.R.M. student Jill Larkin, Natural Resources Institute, Winnipeg, Manitoba and Department of Zoology, University of Brandon, researching how to identify critical habitat of prairie skinks in Manitoba.
- M.Sc. student Christopher De Ruyck, Natural Resources Institute, Winnipeg, Manitoba, on understanding northern saw-whet owl movements and population trends within avian conservation biology.

#### **Research Permits**

- Section staff reviewed and recommended for approval 22 requests for scientific research permits or amendments to existing permits bringing the total number of new and ongoing research projects on non-game wildlife in the province to 35.
- Researchers from within and outside of Manitoba investigated the biology and ecology of species ranging from endangered orchids and butterflies to frogs, snakes, small mammals and raptors.

#### **Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement**

Ideal fall harvest conditions in Agro-Manitoba aided farmers' ability to complete the cereal harvest before the arrival of large numbers of waterfowl in early September. These conditions resulted in below-average waterfowl crop damage across Manitoba. Field delivery of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program cost \$302,737. The program operated two feeding stations and eight Crown land lure crops in damage-prone areas. The program provides farmers with cracker shells, lends scarecrows and propane scare cannons to protect crops. A total of 23 scare-cannon depots were set up to provide farmers ready access to equipment.

The program operated within the context of a Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement for the year, with the agreement being ratified at the end of March 2008. It is anticipated that there will be a long-term cost-sharing agreement in place in 2008/09 and beyond.

**Table WI.11**  
**12.4(f) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>		<b>Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$(000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$(000)</b>		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,280.1	32.29	2,032.7	247.4	
Other Expenditures	1,106.8		1,277.2	(170.4)	
Grant Assistance	936.8		945.9	(9.1)	
Canada Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	315.4		352.2	(36.8)	
<b>Total 12.4(f)</b>	<b>4,639.1</b>	<b>32.29</b>	<b>4,608.0</b>		<b>31.1</b>

## **Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund**

The Fund is administered by the Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch. This Fund provides support to non-profit community-based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. It also encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resources issues and the environment. All projects must meet provincial and federal regulatory requirements. In 2007/2008 the Fund granted \$164,020 to nine applicants.

**Table SC.1**

### **12.4(g) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Over/(Under)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$ (000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$ (000)</b>	
Grant Assistance	164.0		250.0	(86.0)
<b>Total 12.4(h)</b>	<b>164.0</b>		<b>250.0</b>	<b>(86.0)</b>

## **Lands and Geomatics**

Comprised of Crown Land Operations (Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs) and Remote Sensing and Land Mapping Services (Geomatics), the Branch is responsible for the management and control of provincial Crown lands that are governed under *The Crown Lands Act* and *The Wild Rice Act*, and the provision of mapping services throughout the province including the development of a provincial integrated geo-spatial infrastructure.

Functions also include policy development, the delivery of the Cottage Lot Initiative and overseeing Crown land transactions administered through the Crown Land and Property SOA on behalf of the Department.

### **Crown Lands Operations**

#### **Cottage Lot Initiative**

- The Lands Branch, in conjunction with other areas in the department, has continued as an active participant in the delivery of the Cottage Lot Initiative which makes cottage lots available to Manitobans. The program has been extremely well received and supported by municipalities and communities throughout the province.
- New development not only enhances the quality of life for Manitobans by providing opportunities to enjoy Manitoba's natural beauty and cottage life, but it also provides considerable economic benefits to communities and municipalities. Benefits are derived from the initial construction of the infrastructure, as well as from cottage construction and ongoing local spending and tax contributions.
- Subdivision proposals go through extensive planning, review and approval processes to determine suitability of the sites before development actually begins. These processes ensure high standards are followed with respect to environmental, natural resource, sewage and waste disposal, servicing and other interests.

#### **Key activities carried out in 2007/08:**

- The 1,000 cottage lot target established in 2004 was reached in 2006. Six public draws have been held to date. On June 21, 2007 the Minister of Conservation launched a new program for another 1,000 cottage lots.
- Key changes to the new program are intended to address the shortcomings of the current draw process which results in lots remaining unallocated after a draw despite there being demand for those available lots; and to provide greater emphasis on seeking opportunities for joint development agreements and co-operative working relationships with First Nations and Northern Communities;
- The Cottage Draw Information is available on the Conservation web site at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cottaging>.

#### **Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs**

- Through the Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs Area and the Director, the Lands Branch of Manitoba Conservation continues to be responsible for Crown land planning, policy and program development with respect to non-agricultural Crown lands and wild rice.
- The Branch ensures due diligence and adherence to policy, procedure and regulation is carried out in the review, and approval of applications for the disposition of Crown land as processed by the Crown Land and Property Agency.

- The Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs area is responsible for the preparation of various legal documents related to the fulfilment of Treaty Land Entitlement, other Aboriginal Land Claim settlement agreements and federal land transactions. These include issuance of Exclusive Use/Land Use Permits, Cabinet Submissions, Federal Transfers/Reversions of Administration and Control, Real Property Applications, Dissolving of Titles, and Fee Simple Transfers as specified in the respective settlement agreement.
- The Unit is responsible for administration of Crown land programs and settlement agreements involving First Nations and Aboriginal communities and plays a key role in the negotiation and implementation of various agreements and programs involving Crown land. To ensure all issues are addressed in accordance with the various settlement agreements, provincial departments and agencies are required to comment on the selections. The section then formulates a provincial position on each site in accordance with the appropriate agreement provisions and participates in discussions with Canada and the First Nations to resolve the conditions under which the lands would be available for transfer.
- Crown land related technical support and advisory services are provided to other branches and departments that are responsible for negotiation and delivery of agreements, claims and programs involving First Nations. Services include research, mapping, record keeping, technical advice and services related to the administrative land transfer requirements, agreements and any interests, encumbrances or legislative limitations that may affect availability of selected Crown lands.

**Key results achieved:**

- The Section continues to develop operational procedures with the newly formed Crown Land and Property Agency and provides recommendations on policy development affecting the disposition of Crown land.
- The Unit was actively involved in Tri-Party meetings concerning approximately 250,000 acres of Crown land selections for Treaty Land Entitlement and 150,000 acres in respect of other land settlement agreements that are not approved for survey or finalized for transfer, with a goal to expedite the process.
- Active participation at the Third Party Interest workshop as hosted by the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee for all Entitlement First Nations. A presentation of the provincial processes and procedures relating to third-party interests was provided to answer questions and assist in reducing time frames involved in the resolution of these matters.
- Table LA.1 provides a summary of Crown land amounts that have been selected and are pending survey or have been transferred to Canada by Manitoba for Treaty Land Entitlement purposes, up to March 31, 2008.
- 127,416 acres of selected Crown lands were transferred by Manitoba to Canada between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008.

**Table LA.1**  
**Treaty Land Entitlement – Crown Land Amounts**

First Nations with Treaty Entitlement Agreements*	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Total Selected Acres	Available for Transfer Pending Survey	Transferred to Canada by Manitoba
Barren Lands	66,420	28,098		
Brokenhead	4,344	4,685	685	
Buffalo Point	3,432	2,647		2,370
Garden Hill	45,339	53,104		43,530
God's Lake	42,600	41,232	1,240	14,464
Manto Sipi	8,725	9,965	1,212	4,284
Mathias Colomb	217,364	196,840	90,955	82,574
Nisichawayasihk	6,1761	72,899	4,533	25,894
Northlands	94,084	57,317	7,512	
Norway House	104,784	107,214	5,643	40,237
Opaskwayak	47,658	47,870	22,451	8,700
Bunibonibee	35,434	35,345	13,414	18,052
Red Sucker Lake	9,487	9,585		9,585
Rolling River	2,356	2,351		2,351
Sapotaweyak	108,134	113,133	4,952	90,810
St. Theresa Point	34,908	35,185		35,185
War Lake	7,156	6,565		
Wasagamach	12,493	12,511		12,511
Wuskwi Sipihk	44,168	45,304		23,468
	<b>950,647</b>	<b>881,850</b>	<b>152,597</b>	<b>414,015</b>

\* The following Entitlement First Nations have not signed individual Treaty Entitlement Agreements: Fox Lake, Marcel Colomb, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin, Sayisi Dene, Shamattawa and York Factory.

## Remote Sensing and Land Mapping Services (Geomatics)

The geomatics area is comprised of four distinct sections; Remote Sensing Program, Cadastral Mapping Program, Topographical Mapping Program and the Geographical Names Program. All areas are heavily involved in GIS applications and geo-spatial analysis. The mandate is to develop and implement a provincial integrated geo-spatial infrastructure by co-operating with all public sector agencies, avoid duplication of data and promote data sharing within these agencies.

### Remote Sensing

- The Remote Sensing section provides earth observation services and related geo-spatial information from a range of air-craft and space-craft platforms to derive insight, evaluation and assessment of the natural and physical resources of Manitoba.
- This information helps to support natural resource management and environmental monitoring activities within the Department and other Government of Manitoba agencies.
- The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre (MRSC), in partnership with Canadian Forest Service, delineated and mapped a sampling of the deforestation events that have occurred throughout Manitoba using Landsat satellite imagery spanning several years. The result is a key element for reporting to Environment Canada, the agency responsible for co-ordinating National Carbon Budget Data to meet reporting commitments.

#### **Key results achieved:**

- Project involvement includes the usage of NOAA/AVHRR satellite data between April 1 and Oct. 30 for the Canadian World Crop monitoring program. The GeoComp satellite image produces daily and weekly composites detecting change "happenings" for 1) Global climate change and 2) Parks Canada program.
- Work is continuing in partnership with PFRA and Manitoba Habitat and Heritage to re-evaluate the Land Use/Land Cover changes that have occurred since 2000. Seventeen classifications are being analyzed.
- As part of the Kyoto Protocol, Pacific Forest Service and MRCS agreed to evaluate the deforestation that has taken place between 2000 and 2007 using Landsat 7 and ancillary data. Work is underway on a test project using SPOT imagery on riparian features within a 300 metre buffer zone around all hydro graphic features.

#### **Cadastral Mapping Section**

- The Cadastral Mapping Section is responsible for the development and maintenance of a province-wide digital cadastral parcel infrastructure based on land parcels shown on registered plans of survey. The topologically structured data is used extensively throughout government, by provincial utilities and by general Manitoba GIS community at-large to meet land referencing, planning and decision making needs.

#### **Key results achieved:**

- Over the past year 10,100 parcels have been computed bringing the total number of parcels into the system to well over 480,000, province wide. The primary focused area has been around the Capital Region area based on the municipalities that were affected by the "Flood of the Century." As well parcel mapping was completed for nine full townships province wide including four surrounding the Ste Rose du Lac area in support of the Dutch Elm disease program.
- The Section created conceptual cottage lot subdivision designs for 13 sites on behalf of Crown Lands. Approved designs out of this group formed an integral part of the 2007 spring and fall public draws for cottage lots.
- The Section continued to dedicate its efforts to develop a seamless digital Manitoba land referenced grid which includes a fully topologically structured parcel based approximation of the Dominion Land Survey township/range quarter section system in southern Manitoba.

#### **Topographic Mapping**

- The Topographic Mapping Section is responsible for topographic information and is designed to help support, evaluate and manage Manitoba's resources.

#### **Key results achieved:**

- The provincial 1:20,000 mapping program is now complete for all of southern Manitoba. This data set includes seven geo-referenced layers of information and is available in both .dxf and .shp formats. Compilation and production of 100, 1:4000 hard copy maps of Cross Lake I.R for Northern Flood Agreement are now complete. Severance lines were determined from contour information. 95 Treaty Land Entitlement parcels are also being flight planned and compiled over the next two years. Once again, easement information will be determined from contour information.

- The Topographic mapping section is also involved in partnership with NRCan for the updating of the 1:50,000 NTDB using Landsat 7 imagery. Another agreement with the federal government calls for the updating of the National Road Network and the inclusion of civic addressing in year two. Much of the updated information is collected using new cadastral information and imagery from all sources as a backdrop.
- The demand for high-quality resource photography has lead to the provincial five year ortho-photography refresh program at a scale of 1:40,000 in both b/w and colour. The area to be covered is +/- 178,000 km<sup>2</sup> and has a total cost of \$1.2 million. Seven departments as well as two private groups have committed dollars to the program. There are continued negotiations with other firms to help us achieve our total goal. Imagery will be made available to all departments via the Manitoba Land Initiative Web Site and by USB hard drives to the Private firms for their immediate usage. Imagery will be in five kilometres tiles and have a 1 metre pixel resolution.

### **Manitoba Geographical Names Program**

- The Manitoba Geographical Names Program provides a provincial geographic name authority for the enhancement, maintenance and protection of Manitoba's nomenclature. This is accomplished through the development and implementations of policies and procedures, the establishment and monitoring of toponymic quality control in government documents, the research for and processing of decisions on new and established names and the management of the Commemorative Names Program.
- The service related to the dissemination of geographical name information to all Manitobans regarding the correct spelling, usage, origin of names, and, in particular, to government departments and agencies for support of a vital toponymic quality control service for government maps, signs, and other documentation was maintained.
- Liaison with the Geographical Names Board of Canada was maintained regarding name decisions, revisions of principles and procedures, and to ensure provincial interests and concerns are identified, evaluated, and considered in provincial, federal, and international decision-making processes.
- A recent publication A Place of Honour contains photographs and personal information for the majority of the over 4,000 Manitobans who made the supreme sacrifice during WW II and the Korean War.

#### **Key results achieved:**

- Work continued with Natural Resources Canada to upgrade Manitoba's digital toponymic data records through Natural Resources Canada's Quality Control and Name Delineation (QCAND) web application. QCAND provides Manitoba the opportunity to spatially delineate Manitoba's toponyms. Spatially referencing toponyms provides a user-friendly, simple visual representation of how geographical names are applied to entire geographical features such as lakes, rivers, bays, hills, etc. Toponyms have historically been stored as point data only. This project will now store toponyms as polygon data.
- Staff continued to research and approve official name decisions on behalf of the Minister of Conservation, who is responsible for Manitoba geographical names. These decisions and research enhance the Manitoba Geographical Names Data Base (MGNDB) which contains all current and archival toponyms (geographical names) and provides a means for its timely distribution through automated information systems, maps, brochures, gazetteers, and commemorative name certificates.

**Table LA.2**  
**12.4(h) Lands and Geomatics**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,468.3	24.00	1,443.3	25.0	
Other Expenditures	3,347.0		3,890.2	(543.2)	1.
Recoveries from Other Appropriations	0.0		(23.7)	23.7	
<b>Total 12.4(h)</b>	<b>4,815.3</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>5,309.8</b>	<b>(494.5)</b>	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to fewer cottages completed to lock up stage and lower lot development costs.

# Environmental Stewardship

**Table ES.1**  
**12.5(a) Divisional Administration**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>		<b>Variance Over/(Under)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$ (000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$ (000)</b>		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	170.7	2.00	180.8	(10.1)	
Other Expenditures	40.4		65.1	(24.7)	
<b>Total 12.5(a)</b>	<b>211.1</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>245.9</b>	<b>(34.8)</b>	

## Sustainable Resource and Policy Management

### Description:

The Branch coordinates and integrates departmental policy, natural resource allocation, Crown land use planning, and legislative development and interpretation, in accordance with the principles and guidelines of sustainable development. The Branch is responsible for the administration of *The Sustainable Development Act*, *The Resource Tourism Operators Act* and the Endangered Species and Special Conservation Fund. The Branch assists the development of effective departmental policies and programming, provides planning and policy assistance to local planning authorities, administers licensing of resource-based tourism facilities, coordinates and develops departmental legislation and represents the department on issues related to internal and international trade agreements, as well as national forums for governmental cooperation.

### Key Results Achieved:

The Branch provided a strategic and systematic approach for the Department to work with other governments on environment and natural resource issues, and contributed to a strong role and voice in national discussions on environmental protection in Canada.

The Branch provided secretariat support to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development and its committees. Chaired by the Minister of Conservation, the Round Table is a 28 member advisory body to the provincial government, which provides advice and support to decision makers. The Branch administered the Sustainable Development Scholarship Program for post-secondary students. Branch staff also assisted the Round Table with developing its new strategic three year workplan, as well as, preparing for the launch of the Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards program to honour contributions made towards sustainability in the province.

The Branch provided planning and policy analysis support to the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee. The Branch, in conjunction with regional Bloc Planning Committees, maintained and administered a system of operational land use coding on Crown land, and prepared Crown Land Plans for Southern Manitoba. The Branch also administered the Committee's system for the review of Crown land sale denial decisions and the designation of Crown lands, and maintained the committee's policy and procedures manual.

The Branch assisted municipalities and Planning Districts in the preparation of development plans and zoning by-laws by coordinating preparation of departmental advice and information on planning,

management and use of natural resources, and responding to requests for studies, maps, and statistical compilations required to properly allocate resources.

The Branch provided secretariat support to the Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC) under *The Resource Tourism Operators Act*. The Committee, comprising Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Manitoba Water Stewardship, makes recommendations to the Administrator of Resource Tourism on the licensing of outfitters and their services, and the permitting of their associated facilities, for the purposes of hunting, fishing and ecotourism activities. Approximately 1,450 licences and/or permits were issued in 2007/08. The Branch also serves as secretariat to the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee, which provides an appeal mechanism for operators wishing to appeal a decision of the Administrator of Resource Tourism.

#### **Key Program Outputs:**

##### **Legislation**

Manitoba Conservation has administrative responsibility for 25 statutes and 97 regulations.

The following legislative and regulatory activity within Manitoba Conservation's administrative mandate occurred during the reporting period:

- *The Forest Health Protection Act* was assented to on November 8, 2007. This Act is not yet in force. It is to come into force on a date to be fixed by proclamation. The Act will repeal *The Dutch Elm Disease Act* once it comes into force.
- *The Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve Regulation (94/2007)* under *The Provincial Parks Act* was registered on July 19, 2007.
- *The Hunter Education Regulation (128/2007)* under *The Wildlife Act* was registered on September 19, 2007.
- *The New Duff Roblin Park Reserve Regulation (163/2007)* under *The Provincial Parks Act* was registered on December 11, 2007.
- Twenty-seven amending regulations were registered during the reporting period, amending seventeen existing regulations including:
  - an amendment to the *Classes of Development Regulation (74/2007)*, the *Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation (64/2008)* and three amendments to the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation (23/2008, 63/2008, 68/2008)* under *The Environment Act*;
  - an amendment to the *Chief Place of Residence Levy Regulation (117/2007)*, the *Park Fees Regulation (180/2007)*, the *Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve Regulation (11/2008)*, four amendments to the *Park Reserves Designation Regulation (80/2007, 126/2007, 142/2007, 16/2008)* and five amendments to the *Provincial Parks Designation Regulation (118/2007, 122/2007, 127/2007, 15/2008, 61/2008)* under *The Provincial Parks Act*; and
  - an amendment to each of the *Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Regulation (70/2008)*, the *Hunting Areas and Zones Regulation (28/2008)*, the *Wildlife Fees and Royalties Regulation (25/2008)*, the *Use of Wildlife Lands Regulation (19/2008)*, the *Vehicle Use in Hunting Regulation (67/2008)*, the *General Hunting Regulation (69/2008)*, and the *Trapping of Wild Animals Regulation (132/2007)*, and two amendments to *Threatened, Endangered and Extirpated Species Regulation (77/2007, 29/2008)* under *The Wildlife Act*.

## **Intergovernmental Affairs and Strategic Policy**

- Support was provided to the Minister and Deputy Minister in their official activities representing Manitoba in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment forum (CCME).
- The Branch worked cooperatively with other Canadian jurisdictions and the CCME Secretariat to coordinate and advance environmental management issues across Canada.
- Support was provided to the Minister as a member of the Governmental Committee for Canada's representation on the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation.
- The Branch participated as Manitoba's representative on the following intergovernmental committees:
  - North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (Canada Implementation Working Committee and Canada Implementation Senior Officials Committee), and
  - CCME committees, including the Environmental Protection and Planning Committee and as co-chair of the Environmental Assessment Committee, and the Water Agenda Development Committee.
- The Branch represented the department in trade matters related to the Agreement on Internal Trade, NAFTA and GATT/WTO agreements, including representing the department in development and implementation of the Processing of Natural Resources chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade, coordinating activities associated with implementation of NAFTA, monitoring trade developments in resource issues, and liaising with other departments and jurisdictions on trade matters involving resources.
- The Branch led, on behalf of the department and government, the development of a five-year agreement and annual workplan with the International Institute for Sustainable Development.
- The Branch provided support and liaison on the government's climate change, water stewardship and Green Manitoba activities.
- The Branch continued to participate with South Africa in an international project to work on sustainability issues.

## **Sustainable Development Implementation**

- The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development met three times during the fiscal year. The Branch, as Secretariat, organized meetings of the Round Table, and also coordinated the preparation of the 2006/07 Manitoba Round Table annual report.
- The Manitoba Round Table awarded Sustainable Development Scholarships to two students in Manitoba – one for graduate research on developing integrated sustainable development teaching resources, the other for undergraduate studies that reflect a commitment to the principles of sustainable development.
- The Branch continued to be the point of contact for Sustainable Development Procurement Guidelines and the Sustainable Development Code of Practice within Government, including ongoing liaison with the Sustainable Development Procurement Guidelines Implementation Committee under the Procurement Council.

## Crown Lands Policy and Planning

- The Branch prepared 26 Crown land sale review reports for the consideration of the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee. The 2007 "Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans" report was published and distributed. Also tabled with the Committee were 1,976 recommended Crown land use classification code changes to Crown land plans for the 2008 report.
- The Branch provided secretariat support to Bloc Panning Committee # 2/3.
- Advice and support were provided to the Protected Areas Initiative and related activities including discussions and development of an agreement with the City of Winnipeg.
- A departmental review of the issues, policy and legislation with respect to All Terrain Vehicle use on Crown land was continued by the Branch.
- The Branch also continued to build the Crown land use classification GIS database for southern Manitoba. The database is about 95% complete for southern Manitoba.

## Municipal and First Nation Land Planning

- The Branch coordinated the departmental review of:
  - 516 proposed land subdivisions (Red River Region only)
  - 111 proposed municipal zoning by-laws and amendments
  - 64 proposed development plans and amendments, and
  - 21 other proposed municipal land related issues.
- The latest revision of the Provincial Land Use Policies for which Manitoba Conservation is the lead department was coordinated.
- The interdepartmental review of the Asatiwipise Aki Management Plan of the Poplar River First Nation was coordinated.

## Licensing Advisory Committee

- Approximately 1,450 licences and/or permits were issued to lodge operators and outfitters.

**Table SR.1**  
**12.5(b) Sustainable Resource and Policy Management**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	982.9	16.00	1,044.2	(61.3)	
Other Expenditures	183.2		212.6	(29.4)	
Grant Assistance	127.4		134.6	(7.2)	
<b>Total 12.5(b)</b>	<b>1,293.5</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>1,391.4</b>	<b>(97.9)</b>	

## Corporate Crown Land Policy Unit

Reporting to the Lands Committee of Deputy Ministers, Corporate Crown Land Policy provides services and support regarding government-wide Crown land policies and practices to ensure effective horizontal governance.

### **Key Results Achieved**

Various recommendations for Government consideration were developed on Crown land policy-related matters such as oversight structures in support of the coordination of Aboriginal consultations by government departments, public access to leased Crown land and land pricing policies.

Methods of renting out departmental assigned lands for commercial purposes including wayside parks as well as Provincial Park Lands leased for agricultural purposes were amended to enhance the open, fair and transparent disposition of Crown land.

Changes to legislation were developed to streamline the approval process for certain types of Crown land dispositions including lesser value Crown land, trust lands held on behalf of rural municipalities, as well as employees acquiring an interest in Crown land.

Corporate Crown Land Policy led various reviews and prepared findings concerning Crown land administration matters including circulation of proposed Crown Land dispositions to First Nation communities, information disclosure and privacy matters for Crown land applications, etc.

Secretariat support and policy analysis services were provided to the Lands Committee of Deputy Ministers. The Committee was established as part of the process for the Crown Lands and Property Agency to scrutinize all Crown land transactions, review related policies and make recommendations on the disposition of land. Eight departments with an interest in Crown land are represented on this Committee.

Changes were introduced to expand the mandate of the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee, as chaired by Corporate Crown Lands Policy, to include not only the review of decisions on denied Crown land sale applications but for denied applications to purchase a right or interest in Crown land.

### **Key Program Outputs**

Review and analysis of over 50 proposed sales, transfers and exchanges of Crown land were completed for consideration by the Lands Committee of Deputy Ministers prior to seeking Cabinet or Ministerial approvals.

As Chair of the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee, responded to 17 requests for review of denied applications for Crown land.

**Table CLP.1**  
**12.5(c) Corporate Crown Land Policy Unit**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08 \$(000)	Estimate 2007/08 FTE	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	129.2	3.00	192.0	(62.8)
Other Expenditures	13.8		30.0	(16.2)
<b>Total 12.5(c)</b>	<b>143.0</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>222.0</b>	<b>(79.0)</b>

## **Environmental Assessment And Licensing**

The Branch is responsible for minimizing the adverse environmental and public health effects of developments through appropriate Licence and permit conditions. The Branch administers:

- the environmental assessment and licensing process for developments under *The Environment Act* and *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*;
- the certification process for operators under the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation; and
- the permitting of pesticide use under *The Pesticides Regulation*.

### **Key Results Achieved**

Development in Manitoba was conducted in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The Environmental Assessment and Licensing process remains effective, transparent and fair, and continues to meet all legislative and regulatory requirements, including the opportunity for public involvement and participation.

Land use, municipal, industrial, and hazardous waste sources of pollutants were managed through appropriate Licence specifications, limits, terms and conditions. Conditions ensured protection at all project stages (construction through to decommissioning).

Adverse effects to the environment and public health from pesticide use were minimized through appropriate Permit specifications, limits, terms and conditions.

Assisted the public in the Environmental Assessment, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, Pesticide Permit and Wastewater and Operator Certification processes.

Provided recommendations to the Minister on environmental and public health matters.

### **Key Program Outputs**

Processed over 90 development approvals and/or Notices of Alteration under *The Environment Act*, and *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act* as well as 242 permits under *The Pesticide Regulation*.

Resolved issues in an innovative, effective manner while still assuring compliance with the relevant legislation.

Conducted approximately 120 on-site inspections to ensure license conditions were being followed.

Responded to enquiries regarding implementation of conditions.

Reviewed and approved reports required under licenses, such as Environment Protection Plans for Construction, monitoring, etc.

Responded to approximately 100 public concerns regarding all aspects of the environment and the licensing process.

Participated in public meetings or hearings as required.

**Table EA.1**

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Activities

(ELU - Environmental Land Use; P - Pesticide; MIHW - Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste)

<b>Activities</b>	<b>ELU (#)</b>		<b>P (#)</b>		<b>MIHW (#)</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>07-08</b>	<b>06-07</b>	<b>07-08</b>	<b>06-07</b>	<b>07-08</b>	<b>06-07</b>	<b>07-08</b>	<b>06-07</b>
<b><i>The Environment Act</i></b>								
Project proposals received	26	19	16	7	29	31	<b>71</b>	<b>57</b>
Project proposals processed	18	22	16	7	22	25	<b>56</b>	<b>54</b>
Project proposals refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Minor alterations requests received	11	6	5	4	37	32	<b>53</b>	<b>42</b>
Minor alterations requests processed	8	6	5	4	35	31	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>
Revision requests to Licences approved	3	4	0	0	9	15	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>
Pre-Licensing activities processed	19	21	0	0	49	44	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>
Highways pre-planning reviews	3	3	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Infrastructure project reviews-Can/Man	12	14	0	0	0	19	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>
Hydro Low Voltage reviews	3	3	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Other Reviews. Licence not required	19	16	0	0	6	10	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement	67	55	41	59	62	41	<b>170</b>	<b>155</b>
Pesticide Use Permits Issued			241	223	0	0	<b>241</b>	<b>223</b>
Post Seasonal Reports received/compiled			237	220	1	0	<b>238</b>	<b>220</b>
Public complaints investigated	5	6	9	12	19	7	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>
Public meetings attended	2	3	1	2	1	0	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Public Hearings attended	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><i>The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act</i></b>								
Project proposals received					5	10	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
Project proposals processed					4	9	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>
Minor alterations requests received					6	6	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
Minor alterations requests processed					5	6	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Pre-Licensing activities					13	5	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement					3	2	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Public meetings attended					0	1	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><i>The Public Health Act</i></b>								
Fumigation Permits issued			2	3			<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Regulation</i></b>								
Certification Examination					442	833	<b>442</b>	<b>833</b>
Plant Classifications Issued					485	988	<b>485</b>	<b>988</b>
Operators Certificates Issued					338	599	<b>338</b>	<b>599</b>

## Table EA.2

Suspensions or Variations under *The Environment Act* 2007-2008

Section 18(2) of *The Environment Act* states:

"A suspension or variation granted pursuant to subsection (1) shall be recorded in the public registry and in the department's annual report." The following suspensions requests were approved by the Department of Conservation during the 2007/2008 fiscal year:

Date	Location	Purpose
Apr 18/07	Powerview, Town of Pine Falls Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 638
Apr 19/07	Riverton, Village of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 417
Apr 19/07	Marble Ridge Farms Ltd. Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 275
May 2/07	St. Clements, R.M. of St. Clements Regional Landfill	Disposal of Livestock Mortalities Environment Act Licence No. 2274 S2 RR
Oct 25/07	Gimli, Town of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1467
Oct 26/07	Stonewall, Town of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1546
Oct 31/07	(Parks) Opapiskaw Lake Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 752

## Table EA.3

### 12.5(d) Environmental Assessment and Licensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,199.1	19.00	1,289.9	(90.8)
Other Expenditures	236.0		275.9	(39.9)
<b>Total 12.5(d)</b>	<b>1,435.1</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>1,565.8</b>	<b>(130.7)</b>

## Aboriginal Relations

The Branch was established to build the relationship between the Department and the Aboriginal people of Manitoba. It is necessary to maintain this level of commitment in order to meet the increasing requirements of the Aboriginal community and Manitoba Conservation.

In providing leadership and direction for the Department, the Branch participates in strategic planning processes, such as development of policies, legislation, and programs to ensure that Aboriginal and Treaty rights are recognized and respected. The Branch is accountable for the research, analysis, development, implementation and evaluation of new and existing resource programs. The Branch is also engaged in development of integrated resource policies, legislation relating to land use, co-management, resource allocation, environmental impacts, sustainable development initiatives, and enforcement. As well, the Branch facilitates communication between the various user interests and the Department and provides support to the Manitoba Model Forest.

The Branch played an instrumental role in developing a government wide draft policy on consultation with First Nation people. It is the intent that the draft consultation policy will be reviewed with First Nations prior to being finalized. The Branch has also taken a lead role in facilitating dialogue between the Aboriginal community and the Department.

### Key Program Outputs

#### General Activities

- Advocated that appropriate and meaningful Crown Consultation is undertaken with First Nation and Aboriginal communities when any government decision may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a Treaty or Aboriginal right.
- Met with Aboriginal communities to identify respective concerns and issues, and assisted in developing action plans to resolve Aboriginal community issues.
- Provided direction for the Department and Aboriginal community in natural resource management programs and issues.
- Participated in discussions and negotiations to develop formal agreement for managing natural resources.
- Provided educational information through varied media to the Department, Aboriginal, and non-Aboriginal communities.
- Attended meetings and gatherings in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and with the various users of natural resources.
- Created and fostered partnerships with Aboriginal communities that will build positive relationships in relation to program development, advocacy and capacity building.
- Responded to inquiries from the Department, resource users, public and educational institutions.

#### Specific Activities

- Participated in meaningful consultation with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by the Louisiana Pacific Forest Management Plan; and the Southern Hardwood Development Project/First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership Forest Management Licence. The Branch participated as members of the Crown Consultation Teams and the Crown Consultation Steering Committees.
- Continued to advance the need for a policy review to recognize the interest of First Nation people in the use and disposition (sale and lease) of Crown land.

- Reviewed and commented on Crown land applications and sale lists.
- Continued to participate in development of co-management agreements with Opaskwayak Cree Nation and the West Region Tribal Council.
- Continued to facilitate meetings and dialogue between licensed resource users and Aboriginal resource users.
- Discussed with Aboriginal leaders a dialogue forum and communication process between the Department and Manitoba Aboriginal communities.
- Participated in various Treaty Day Celebrations, First Nation and other Aboriginal community events with the Aboriginal Relations Branch display booth.
- Established working partnership with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre and the Fur Institute of Canada to develop a land based curriculum entitled *Reconnecting to the Land* that will be implemented with the Fisher River Cree Nation.
- Updated and maintained the Aboriginal Relations Branch webpage for Manitoba Conservation website.

**Table AR.1**  
**12.5(e) Aboriginal Relations**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	388.3	6.00	409.3	(21.0)	
Other Expenditures	179.3		188.3	(9.0)	
Northern Initiatives	368.1		250.0	118.1	1.
<b>Total 12.5(e)</b>	<b>935.7</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>847.6</b>	<b>88.1</b>	

1. Increase in Northern Initiatives is due to grant to Opaskwayak Cree Nation for economic development.

## **Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin**

The Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Planning Initiative ensures that future land, resource and development decisions address the environmental, social, health, cultural, and economic needs of First Nations, the public, local communities, and various stakeholders and interest groups in the area on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

### **Key Results Achieved:**

- The WNO Secretariat coordinated the WNO Planning Initiative by providing administrative, planning and research support to its principal bodies, the WNO Council and the WNO Council of Chiefs.
- The Secretariat also assisted the WNO Council of Chiefs Inc., which leads and manages the development of traditional area land use plans (TALUPs), and administers and disperses its funds.

### **Key Program Outputs:**

- An Interdepartmental Working Group continues to address the 100+ recommendations in the status report *“Promises to Keep...” Towards a Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg* on an on-going basis. With the exception of recommendations concerning Bipole III, 6% of the recommendations have been completed and 86% are in process.
- The WNO Council determined that the focus of future planning shift from broad area to local community planning on traditional First Nation territories. Broad area principles have been drafted to act as general guidance as well as address issues such as transportation and boreal protection that still require a regional approach. A draft report entitled *“Framework and Guidelines for Broad Area Planning on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg”* presents principles and guidelines based upon expanded recommendations captured in the status report. While work on the report remains on-going, a draft has been presented to the WNO.
- The *Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Council of Chiefs Accord* was signed to confirm a government-to-government relationship between the WNO First Nation governments and the Government of Manitoba, reinforce the foundation for traditional area land use planning, and assist in the establishment of Regional Resource Management Boards (RRMBs).
- The WNO Council of Chiefs Inc. has allocated a total of \$378,100.00 of provincial funding to eleven First Nations to initiate land use planning in their traditional territories. A strategy to raise additional funds from the federal and private sectors was completed.
- *Expression of Interest* was received from numerous individuals and firms having the potential/expertise to offer services that would assist communities to develop traditional area land use plans, as well as assist in helping communities develop their own capacities to provide long term job benefits (i.e. training in areas of traditional area research, GIS application and mapping, project implementation and monitoring, etc.). An information package was prepared and presented to the WNO Chiefs for their consideration and follow-up.
- Regional Resource Management Board (RRMB) negotiators for the Cree communities of Bunibonibee, God's Lake and Manto Sipi, as well as for the Oji-Cree communities of Garden Hill, Red Sucker Lake, St. Theresa Point and Wasagamack, have reached draft agreements. The Ojibway communities of Bloodvein, Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi have agreed to work jointly to set up a RRMB for their area and have appointed negotiators.
- A Traditional Area Land Use Planning Workshop was prepared for community TALUP coordinators. The purpose of the workshop will be to provide coordinators with an introduction to the steps for starting their TALUPs and activities associated with each step, focusing on the development of a

community Vision, documenting and mapping Traditional Knowledge, as well as incorporating western science information.

**Table WA.1**

**12.5(f) Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual	Estimate	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	2007/08 \$(000)	2007/08 \$(000)		
Other Expenditures	898.0	1,197.3	(299.3)	1.
<b>Total 12.5(f)</b>	<b>898.0</b>	<b>1,197.3</b>	<b>(299.3)</b>	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to reduced meeting and travel related costs for traditional land use planning and community consultations.

## Protected Areas

### Description:

The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) contributes to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba. Protected areas consist of land, freshwater, or marine areas that are free from oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric development, logging, mining, and other activities that may significantly and adversely affect habitat. Protected lands can include national parks, ecological reserves, provincial parks and park reserves, wildlife management areas, provincial forests and privately owned conservation lands that meet the province's definition of protected.

The goal of the PAI is to establish, for each of the 18 natural regions and sub-regions of the province, a network of protected areas containing an adequate and representative sample of the region's diverse landscapes. A geographic information system (GIS) is used to identify and evaluate potential areas, and track progress towards meeting this goal.

### Key Results Achieved:

Important work continued this year with the mining and forestry industries, First Nation and Northern Affairs communities, and environmental organizations regarding protected areas. The Bloc Planning Committee began a review of the 42 protected area proposals finalized last year in Natural Region 5c. The Integrated Science Advisory Committee (ISAC) began the protected areas planning exercise in the Saskatchewan River Forest Section (Natural Region 5a). (See accompanying map). Work continued this year to identify land owned by conservation agencies within agro-Manitoba that have the potential to become protected areas. To that end, a \$300,000 grant was awarded to the Nature Conservancy of Canada in support of their "Campaign for Conservation". In addition, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the City of Winnipeg to identify areas of mutual interest and opportunities for collaboration in conservation activities.

The PAI continued to participate in the development of the national Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS) schema (standardized dataset) as a component of the National Forest Information System (NFIS). This included applying the criteria in the newly published "Canadian Guidebook for the Application of IUCN Protected Area Categories 2008" to Manitoba's protected areas dataset, standardizing it for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and for addition to the CARTS online data sharing portal.

### Key Program Outputs:

New Protected Areas	Area (hectares)	Protected Under
Little Limestone Park Reserve	4,095	<i>The Provincial Parks Act</i>
Beaudry Provincial Park Expansion	15	<i>The Provincial Parks Act</i>
A portion of Nopiming Provincial Park	186	<i>The Provincial Parks Act</i>
Conversion to Backcountry Land Use Category		
Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park Expansion	356	<i>The Provincial Parks Act</i>
New Duff Roblin Park Reserve	32	<i>The Provincial Parks Act</i>

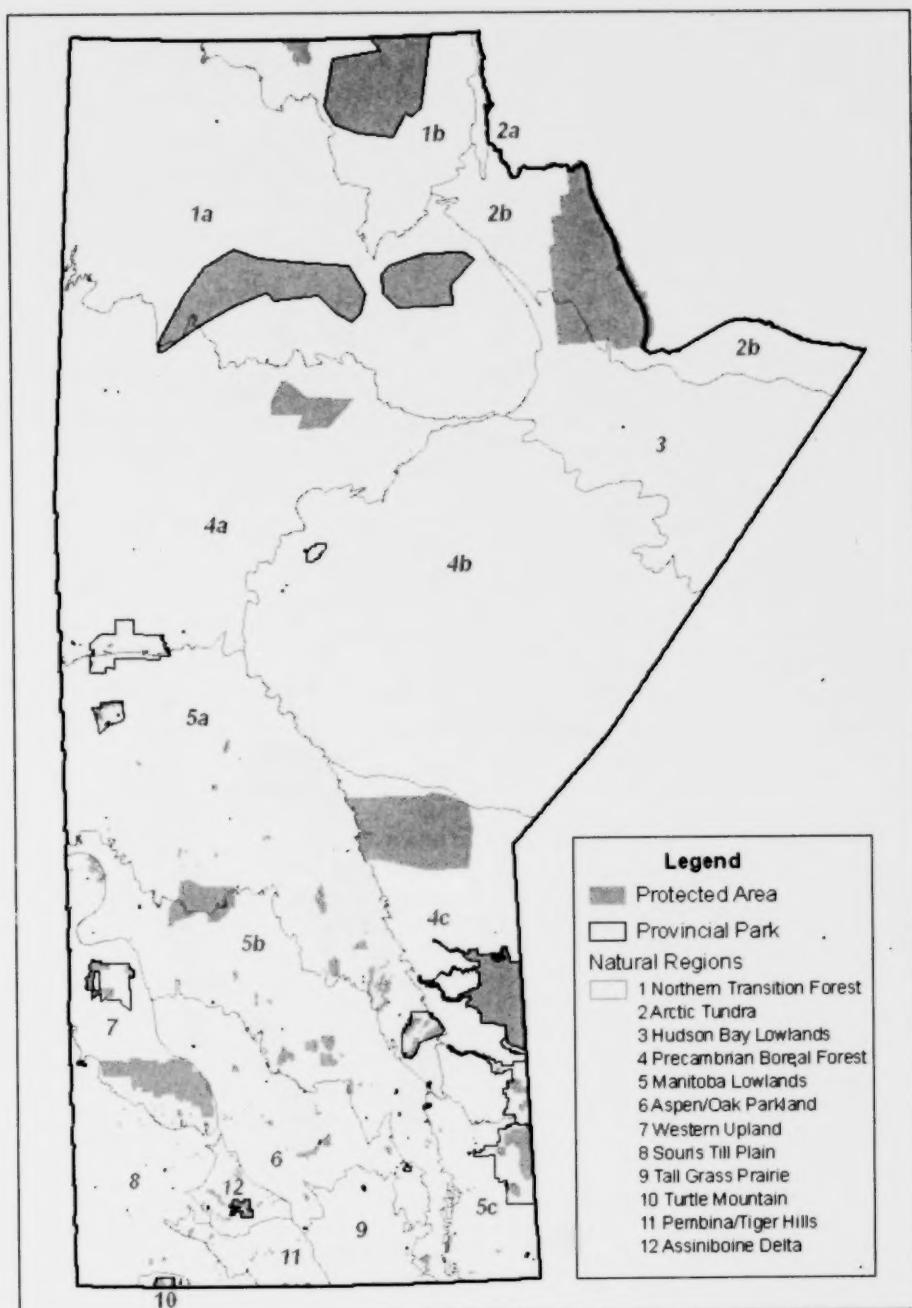
Currently, 5.4 million hectares (or 8.4 per cent of Manitoba) are protected. This includes two national parks, 21 ecological reserves, all or parts of 44 provincial parks and interim protected park reserves, all or parts of 46 wildlife management areas, parts of two provincial forests, and private lands owned by Ducks Unlimited of Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Manitoba Naturalists Society. East Paint Lake Park Reserve was converted to Paint Lake Provincial Park in 2008 reducing the total hectares of protected lands.

**Table PR.1**  
**12.5(g) Protected Areas**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	228.0	3.00	211.4	16.6	
Other Expenditures	53.9		115.5	(61.6)	
Grant Assistance	300.0		300.0	0.0	
<b>Total 12.5(g)</b>	<b>581.9</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>626.9</b>	<b>(45.0)</b>	

Figure 7

## Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas



## **Pollution Prevention**

Working co-operatively with local governments, non-government organizations, business and industry associations and other agencies, the Branch promotes initiatives to foster efficient use of resources and best practices that avoids or minimizes pollution and waste, and supports these and other provincial initiatives through the management and administration of grant funding programs. The Branch plans and develops programs, policy, strategies, and legislation and regulations, and programs to reduce waste, prevent pollution and protect the stratospheric ozone layer.

***The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act and The Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Act*** are administered by the Branch. The Branch manages the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) established under Part 7 of ***The Sustainable Development Act*** and three of its broad allocation funding initiatives, including the SDIF Open Category, Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC).

The Branch supports and participates in various departmental initiatives, including providing a staff member to serve as the campaign manager for the departmental All Charities Campaign. Staff also participates on review committees for other departmental, provincial and federal grant funding programs.

The Branch is also involved in various partnerships and initiatives with other government departments and external agencies.

In 2007/08, the Air Quality Management Section joined the Pollution Prevention Branch. The Section's annual report is separate from the main report for the Branch.

### **Key Results Achieved:**

#### **Waste Reduction and Prevention**

The Branch continued to focus on programs that aim to:

- promote producer responsibility for post-consumer product management;
- encourage strategic public private sector partnerships to address environmental issues;
- reduce volume of waste generated and disposed; and
- improve waste management facility operations and planning.

The Branch continued to work with Green Manitoba to finalize and implement new regulatory requirements under *The WRAP Act* to address priority waste streams as identified in Manitoba's Green and Growing Strategy, including *Packaging and Printed Paper*, *Hazardous Household Materials* and *Electrical and Electronic Equipment*. A new Tire Stewardship Regulation was passed in November 2006.

Another of the Branch's key partnerships is with Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM), which was supported through a grant from the WRAPP Fund to deliver Waste Reduction Services, including the Environmental Speakers' Bureau, Waste Reduction Week activities, compost workshops and education, and provision of Environmental Information Services. More information on RCM's programs is available at: [www.resourceconservation.mb.ca](http://www.resourceconservation.mb.ca).

The Branch undertook several studies in support of the draft *Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Regulation* under *The WRAP Act*. When adopted, this regulation will replace the Multi-Material Stewardship (Interim Measures) Regulation and a new industry association will replace the current Board. More details on the regulation are available at: [www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention).

Regulated programs under *The WRAP Act* recycled 94,224 tonnes of material in 2007/08, including 10,933 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, 68,808 tonnes of packaging and paper from residences and 14,483 tonnes of used oil products. The amount of material collected through these programs increased by 3,681 tonnes from the previous year.

### Multi-Material Recycling

In 2007/08, the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) paid out \$8,737,354 in Municipal Recycling Support Payments to recycling program operators. This was a significant increase from the previous year. MPSC helped to recycle 68,808 Tonnes of material – the equivalent of 58.8 kgs per person. Further information on the MPSC is available at: [www.mpsc.com](http://www.mpsc.com).

**Table P2.1**  
**Residential Recycling Statistics**

<b>By-Material Recovery of Eligible Materials (fiscal year comparison)</b>				
<b>Eligible Material</b>	<b>Total Recycled 2006 2007 (Kg's)</b>	<b>Total Recycled 2007-2008 (Kg's)</b>	<b>Change from previous fiscal year</b>	<b>Average Kgs Recycled Per Manitoban (2006 pop. = 1,170,300)</b>
Newspapers, Magazines, Flyers & Telephone Directories	34,747,628	36,460,354	1,712,726	31.15
Corrugated Cardboard	9,148,516	9,701,547	553,030	8.29
PET Plastics	2,162,710	2,403,418	240,708	.2.05
4, 5, & 7 Rigid Plastics	905,960	1,091,802	185,843	0.93
Glass Containers	5,430,166	5,779,403	349,237	4.94
Boxboard	5,496,882	5,841,826	344,943	4.99
Aluminum Cans	926,459	1,035,668	109,209	0.88
Metal Cans	2,567,909	2,792,798	224,889	2.39
Polycoat & Aseptic Containers	1,065,067	1,170,421	105,354	1.00
HDPE Containers	2,314,866	2,531,434	216,568	2.16
<b>Total Eligible Materials</b>	<b>64,766,163</b>	<b>68,808,670</b>	<b>4,042,507</b>	<b>58.80</b>

### Tire Recycling

The branch conducted a public review of a new tire stewardship program plan, proposed by Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM), an industry association established by the Manitoba Motor Dealers' Association, the Retail Council of Canada, The Rubber Association of Canada and the Western Canada Tire Dealers. The Minister approved the plan in September 2007.

At the end of FY 2007/08, TSM assumed control of tire stewardship in Manitoba. The new industry-led program is intended to ensure the environmental and economic sustainability of Manitoba's scrap tire recycling program. More information on TSM is available at: [www.tirestewardshipmb.ca](http://www.tirestewardshipmb.ca).

As a result of this shift, the existing Tire Stewardship Regulation will be repealed in FY 2008/09 and the existing Tire Stewardship Board (TSB) will be dissolved.

Tire sales were up from 842,170 to 890,573 tires, giving the TSB revenue of \$2,461,177. These funds helped to recycle 1,093,386 passenger tire equivalents. This is a decrease of approximately 200,000 tire equivalents from the previous year and was due for the most part to the financial insolvency of one of the processors.

**Table P2.2**  
**Products from Scrap Tires, in PTEs<sup>1</sup>**

Moulded Products	143,480	13%
2-inch Shred	554,209	51%
Crumb	99,825	9%
Tire-Derived Fuel	208,778	19%
Blasting Mats	83,243	8%
Sidewalls	<u>3,851</u>	>1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,093,386</b>	<b>PTE's</b>

#### **Used Oil Recycling**

The *Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation* prohibits sale of lubricating oil products unless the vendor is registered and belongs to the stewardship program operated by Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corporation (MARRC). MARRC has 153 members, and as part of their membership agreement, vendors must pay Environmental Handling Charges based on product sales. In total, 53 Eco-Centres have been established in partnership with municipal governments and there are 22 privately operated depots to collect used oil, filters and containers.

The Branch coordinated the public review of MARRC's new five-year business plan for used oil management. The Minister approved the plan in December 2007.

Purchases of lubricating products were flat during the year. Oil recovery increased to 12.9 Million Litres, or 78% of the estimated amount recoverable. Filter recovery stayed at 1.63 Million filters, or 81% of sales. Container recovery grew slightly to 221 thousand kilograms. Further information on MARRC is available at: [www.usedoilrecycling.com](http://www.usedoilrecycling.com).

#### **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)**

The branch coordinated the public review of two new regulations under *The WRAP Act*. The *Hazardous Household Material Stewardship Regulation* and the *Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulation* would shift responsibility for managing these targeted waste materials to new organizations to be established by industry stewards.

#### **Pollution Prevention<sup>2</sup>**

The Branch continued to work with, and provide information to a variety of government, academic, industry, and consumer organizations. The branch distributed technical and public education materials in support of branch and departmental program areas.

Branch staff represented Manitoba on the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Pollution Prevention Network and chaired the review panel for the Pollution Prevention Awards and Recognition Program. The CCME awards program recognizes companies and organizations showing leadership in pollution prevention, innovation and greenhouse gas reduction. Three companies and three municipalities received awards at a gala ceremony at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Pollution Prevention Round Table in Winnipeg, in June 2007. Honourable mentions were also given to two organizations in two separate categories. Additional details about the CCME Pollution Prevention Awards are available at: [www.ccme.ca/initiatives/pollution.html](http://www.ccme.ca/initiatives/pollution.html). Further information on the Canadian Pollution Prevention Roundtable is available at [www.c2p2online.com](http://www.c2p2online.com).

<sup>1</sup> One PTE equals one car tire.

<sup>2</sup> Pollution prevention is defined as the use of processes, practices, materials, products, substances or energy that avoids or minimizes the creation of pollutants and waste, and reduces the overall risk to the environment and human health.

### **Ozone Depleting Substances**

Staff continued to participate on the Federal-Provincial Working Group (FPWG) on Ozone Depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives and met to consult on provincial and federal harmonization approaches for the continued implementation of the 2001 *National Action Plan (NAP) for the Environmental Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and Their Halocarbon Alternatives*. The FPWG is responsible for developing and implementing Canada's National Action Plan (NAP) which outlines how ODS will be controlled, reduced and eliminated in Canada. The NAP was created to meet national and international commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The latest NAP was approved by the CCME in 2001 and requires federal and provincial jurisdictions to implement measures to eliminate the release of ODS and alternatives into the environment.

Support continued for Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC), a national voluntary industry stewardship organization and its comprehensive halocarbon stewardship program for the proper management, collection and disposal of obsolete and surplus ODS. RMC has accepted and processed 1,374,259 kgs of high and low pressure refrigerants and destroyed 1,248,566 kgs of refrigerant waste.

The Heating and Refrigeration Air Conditioning Institute (HRAI) tracks the number of chillers in Canada that continue to operate on CFC refrigerants and the annual rate of conversions and replacements. From 2005 to 2006 the rate of conversion/replacement in Canada was 38.4% in 2005 and 42.5% in 2006. At the time of printing, updated figures for 2007 and 2008 were not available.

The Branch continued to administer the Annual Appointment Agreement between Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA). The Agreement allows MOPIA to undertake administrative tasks under the *Manitoba Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbon Regulation (103/94)* and continue its role as a service provider in issuing permits and collecting annual records and fees. In 2007, 6,104 trained service technicians' certificates and 341 secondary distributor permits, 10 Class 1 CFC Chiller permits and 20 Fixed Fire Extinguishing Permits were issued, and five environmental awareness certification training sessions were held. Further information on MOPIA is available at [www.mopia.ca](http://www.mopia.ca).

Staff continued to work in cooperation with MOPIA on the implementation of new regulatory amendments to encourage the orderly transition from CFCs and Halons to alternative substances and technologies. A series of industry information sessions on compliance and regulatory requirements were held throughout Manitoba and a review to revise and update Manitoba's environmental awareness training requirements for service technicians was undertaken.

Staff continued to work in partnership with MOPIA and Green Manitoba to analyze current practices and options to enhance recovery of ozone depleting substances from white goods prior to disposal.

### **Funding Programs**

The Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF), administered by the Branch, supports innovative solutions to environmental issues. In addition to administering the overall Fund, the Branch managed the following targeted broad allocations:

- SDIF Open Category
- Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund
- Environmental Youth Corps (EYC)

Branch staff participated at the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN) 2007 National Conference, held in Sydney, BC. The CEGN is a broad network of organizations that make environmental grants in Canada and provides a national format for information-sharing, collaboration and contributing towards expanding the scope and effectiveness of environmental grant-making in Canada.

Staff represented the department on the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative Management Committee. The initiative brings together several departments including Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Health, and Conservation and is intended to promote healthy food choices and support the development of local food sources in northern Manitoba.

In response to the Provincial Auditor General's report and recommendations on the SDIF, work continued in partnership with International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Sustainable Development Innovation Fund (SDIF) and its *Open Category* projects. Proposed performance measures were developed to initiate a pilot phase to assess draft measures against completed projects.

Details on approved projects funded through the SDIF are provided in a separate *Annual Report* tabled in the Legislature. More information on the Fund is available at: [www.susdev.gov.mb.ca](http://www.susdev.gov.mb.ca).

**Table P2.3**  
**12.5(h) Pollution Prevention**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08		Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE	\$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	366.0	5.00	313.2	52.8	
Other Expenditures	439.4		93.9	345.5	1.
<b>Total 12.5(h)</b>	<b>805.4</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>407.1</b>	<b>398.3</b>	

1. Increase in Other Expenditures is due to a grant to Tire Stewardship Manitoba to support transition to an industry led stewardship model.

## Air Quality Management

To ensure the sustainable use of our air quality resources for the benefit of citizens today, while safeguarding these resources for future generations, the Section:

- Develops and reviews objectives and guidelines for air pollutants of concern;
- Monitors ambient (outdoor) air quality in urban areas and near selected industrial sources to measure adherence to objectives and guidelines;
- Undertakes special air quality projects;
- Provides scientific and technical support to the Department, other agencies and the public;
- Prepares reports and evaluates peer reports;
- Assists in the review and assessment of developments and provides comments for environmental licensing;
- Participates in the development and implementation of national strategies; and
- Assists in the delivery of other departmental programs.

In 2007/08, the Section became part of the Pollution Prevention Branch.

**Table AQ.1**  
**Air Quality Activities**

Activity	Number
National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) – number of urban stations operated	2
Monitoring industries with air emissions – number of stations operated	2 <sup>3</sup>
Participation in regional/national air issues and strategies	6
Support to major Department activities	6
<i>The Environment Act and The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act</i>	
Proposals/Licenses:      Reviewed	108
Comments provided	30
Technical reports published	1
Participation in standard development/implementation (Canada-wide Standards)	1
Requests for detailed technical air quality information (data, criteria, technical information, etc.) and presentations	as required

**Key Results Achieved:**

- Continued to monitor outdoor ambient air quality monitoring successfully at the established provincial sites; audited the air quality monitoring activities of others, as required under regulatory provisions, and, when required, made recommendations for improvements.
- Fulfilled provincial obligations as required by the existing federal/provincial Memorandum of Understanding for operation of the National Air Pollutant Survey (NAPS). A number of air quality analyzers were received as part of the annual replacement program and were fully deployed into the field.
- Continued to provide support for the release of near real-time air quality information (air quality index information for downtown Winnipeg, supply of Manitoba data for the AIRNow web site, etc.).
- Played a lead role in the initiation of the Flin Flon human health risk assessment for exposure to metals in soils, its joint governance with the Government of Saskatchewan and coordinated the Department's participation in the process and related activities.
- Participated with Vale Inco Thompson in a project, supported by a \$25,000 grant from the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF), to obtain water quality data on 10 remote lakes on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. This information, along with nearby soil information, will help to evaluate ecosystem vulnerability to acidic deposition.
- Provided technical and policy support to a number of Departmental activities. These included:
  - Review of the Department's odour nuisance management strategy;
  - Review of the Incinerator Regulation under *The Environment Act*, and assisted in preparation of a background and options paper to update current practices;
  - Represented the province in the federal regulatory framework on air emissions (Clean Air Regulatory Agenda);
  - Management of releases from base metal smelters in Manitoba;

<sup>3</sup> One site operated with assistance from Regional Operations.

- Conducted scientific and related monitoring activities to assess eco-system vulnerability to acidic deposition;
- Participated as a departmental contact for provincial and federal climate change related activities;
- Review of substantial air quality matters related to *Environment Act* proposals for Licencing.
- Continued to participate on the Department's core Emergency Response Team, once every sixth week or as required, to assist in response to releases or potential releases, of contaminants that may be detrimental to the environment or public health.

**Table AQ.2**  
**12.5(i) Air Quality Management**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Estimate 2007/08	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
	\$(000)	FTE		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	240.0	4.00	281.8	(41.8)
Other Expenditures	57.5		69.5	(12.0)
<b>Total 12.5(i)</b>	<b>297.5</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>351.3</b>	<b>(53.8)</b>

## **International Institute for Sustainable Development**

The Institute promotes the concept of environmentally sustainable economic development and the integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development within and between the public, private and voluntary sectors on a national and international basis.

The Institute issues a separate Annual Report. Copies can be obtained from the Institute at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y4. The Institute can be contacted at 204-958-7700.

**Table IISD.1**

### **12.6 International Institute for Sustainable Development**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Over/(Under)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$(000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$(000)</b>	
Other Expenditures	1,195.9		1,195.9	0.0
<b>Total 12.6</b>	<b>1,195.9</b>		<b>1,195.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>

# Minor Capital Projects

## Equipment

Departmental programs were supported by purchasing equipment and paying for minor infrastructure. Funding was allocated for computer hardware, office renovations, and equipment.

**Table IM.1**  
**12.7(a) Equipment**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08 \$(000)	FTE	Estimate 2007/08 \$(000)	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	328.3		430.4	(102.1)	
<b>Total 12.7(a)</b>	<b>328.3</b>		<b>430.4</b>	<b>(102.1)</b>	

## Critical Heritage Marshes

The Heritage Marsh Program incorporates marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and people. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.

Support continued for research on the ecological health and future of Delta Marsh. Recognized locally and internationally as an important prairie wetland, the marsh ecosystem has undergone significant changes, in part due to relatively constant water levels brought on by the regulation of water levels on Lake Manitoba. Marshlands require a natural water regime that includes wet and drought cycles to maintain their biodiversity. Studies to examine the impacts of carp on marsh ecosystems and vegetation studies were carried out in partnership with the University of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

A broadly based technical committee was formed to study various means of addressing the management challenges affecting the Delta Marsh. Its inaugural meeting was held at the Delta Marsh Field Station (University of Manitoba). Control structures are being designed to exclude adult carp while allowing smaller fish to come and go, as well as maintaining a free flow of water between Lake Manitoba and the marsh.

Additional lands were purchased for the Proven Lake Heritage Marsh in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada and The Nature Conservancy of Canada. The newly acquired property will be used for the development of wildlife viewing facilities.

A research program in the Summerberry Heritage Marsh was launched in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Delta Marsh Research Station (University of Manitoba). Studies will be undertaken to determine the reasons for a decline in muskrat numbers in the marsh and develop management strategies to better improve the productivity of the wetlands for a variety of wildlife.

The range of purple loosestrife, an introduced wetland species, continues to expand, threatening important marsh ecosystems. The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project team is chaired by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and includes Ducks Unlimited Canada and the City of Winnipeg. Objectives are to control purple loosestrife through research, management, and expansion of biological control

programs. Approximately 85,000 beetles were raised and released as a biological control measure in 2006.

**Table IM.2**

**12.7(b) Critical Heritage Marshes**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual	Estimate	Variance	Expl. No.
	2007/08 \$(000)	2007/08 FTE	Over/(Under) \$(000)	
Other Expenditures	120.0		120.0	0.0
<b>Total 12.7(b)</b>	<b>120.0</b>		<b>120.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Park Facilities**

**Description**

Parks and Natural Areas branch endeavours to extend the life and capacity of provincial park infrastructure and enhance recreational opportunities through upgrading, improvement and development of park facilities. Environmental protection in provincial parks is enhanced through the installation and construction of appropriate facilities for the treatment of water and sewage, and the disposal of garbage. Campgrounds and other park areas are enhanced to meet park users' needs and promote attraction to users. Park facilities are upgraded through this program in conjunction with Capital Assets and the camping budgets.

**Key Results Achieved**

- Major electrical upgrades to Falcon Lake Mall and water treatment plant.
- Continued with the redevelopment of wastewater treatment facilities for Big Whiteshell, Birds Hill and Hecla.
- Continued enhanced flood protection at Spruce Woods through road construction.
- Added 4 additional yurts at Spruce Woods.
- Campground redevelopment and electrification of campsites were completed at West Hawk, Hnausa, Whitefish and Rivers campgrounds.

**Table IM.3**

**12.7(c) Park Facilities**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual	Estimate	Variance	Expl. No.
	2007/08 \$(000)	2007/08 FTE	Over/(Under) \$(000)	
Other Expenditures	2,016.2		2,369.3	(353.1) 1.
<b>Total 12.7(c)</b>	<b>2,016.2</b>		<b>2,369.3</b>	<b>(353.1)</b>

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to projects deferred to 2008/09, as a result of construction delays and other deferrals to 2008/09.

## Cottaging and Camping Initiatives

As part of the Provincial Camping Initiative, improvements and infrastructure upgrades were made to various campgrounds throughout the Province.

**Table IM.4**

### **12.7(d) Cottaging and Camping Initiatives**

<b>Expenditures by Sub-appropriation</b>	<b>Actual 2007/08</b>	<b>Estimate 2007/08</b>	<b>Variance Over/(Under)</b>	<b>Expl. No.</b>
	<b>\$(000)</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>\$(000)</b>	
Other Expenditures	762.9		750.0	12.9
<b>Total 12.7(d)</b>	<b>762.9</b>		<b>750.0</b>	<b>12.9</b>

## Costs Related to Capital Assets

The Department expended the annual amortization costs of all completed assets based on the useful life of each asset. Assets purchased or constructed in 2007/2008 were expended at one-half the annual amortization rate. The amortization expense also included the portion of corporate information technology projects attributable to the Department.

**Table ACA.1**  
**12.8 Costs Related to Capital Assets**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08 \$(000)	FTE	Estimate 2007/08 \$(000)	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
<b>(a) Desktop Services</b>					
(1) Amortization Expense - Transition	130.5		<b>130.6</b>	(0.1)	
(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	218.6		<b>218.6</b>	0.0	
<b>(b) General Assets</b>					
(1) Amortization Expense - Transition	1,389.2		<b>1,381.2</b>	8.0	
(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	502.8		<b>524.3</b>	(21.5)	
<b>(c) Infrastructure Assets</b>					
(1) Amortization Expense - Transition	2,025.3		<b>2,202.2</b>	(176.9)	1.
(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	2,297.8		<b>2,408.8</b>	(111.0)	1.
<b>Total 12.8</b>	<b>6,564.2</b>		<b>6,865.7</b>	<b>(301.5)</b>	

1. Lower infrastructure amortization and interest expense is due to project deferrals as a result of delays in both environmental approval processes and construction estimates and tendering.

The in-year cost of acquiring capital assets or assets under construction is provided through Part B - Capital Investment for which amortization and interest expense is reflected as a departmental operating expense. Part B - Capital Investment is highlighted in the following section.

## PART B – GENERAL ASSETS

B.12 Capital Investment - General Assets provides for the refurbishment and upgrade of facilities and the acquisition of machinery and equipment.

Machinery and equipment purchases included two Gator vehicles, one tractor/loader, six industrial mowers, one firewood processor, one snowmobile, one ATV vehicle, six boat/motor and trailer combination units, one Yawl vessel, and two replacement outboard motors for a Yawl vessel.

Information Technology projects included development and implementation of the Parks Reservation Service.

**Table GA.1**  
**Part B.12 General Assets**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08 \$(000)	FTE	Estimate 2007/08 \$(000)	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
B.12	1,124.9		1,066.4	58.5	
<b>Total B.12</b>	<b>1,124.9</b>		<b>1,066.4</b>	<b>58.5</b>	

## PART B – Infrastructure Assets

B.12b Capital Investment – Infrastructure provides for the refurbishment and upgrade of facilities and the acquisition of machinery and equipment, which are utilized by the general public in their enjoyment of Manitoba's outdoors.

Infrastructure Asset purchases and construction activities included:

- Major water and wastewater system upgrades progressed at Big Whiteshell, Hecla, Grindstone and West Hawk. The Birds Hill Park Lagoon was completed. The Pine Dock/Beaver Creek Lagoon expansion was completed in cooperation with Aboriginal and Northern Affairs;
- Spruce Woods Provincial Park Road construction and flood proofing continued this year to prevent interruptions in business operations brought by flood. The second phase of the project to complete the dike and road work and to replace the old control structure is on-going;
- Provincial Camping Lite Program (Yurts) at Spruce Woods Provincial Park progressed. A total of 4 additional yurts were added for the 2008 camping season;
- Campground upgrades in support of the Provincial Camping Initiative, including progress at West Hawk Provincial Park and Tulabi Falls and campground upgrade completion at Grand Beach and Falcon Lake;
- Construction of Birds Hill Shower Building continued in 2007/08 to meet the current demands and to improve park facilities;
- Expansion of Birds Hill Office Building continued in 2007/08 to meet the current operational requirements and to better serve park visitors;
- Construction commenced on a Modern Shower Building at West Hawk Lake Provincial Park.

- Two parcels of land were purchased during the year. One parcel is located in the Pembina Valley, and the other is located at Moose Lake. The property in the Pembina Valley is significant in that it promotes rare ironwood – birch forest adjacent to the Pembina Valley Provincial Park. The property at Moose Lake is ecologically sensitive land that contains a rare stand of Eastern White Pine trees.

**Table CI.1**  
**Part B.12 Infrastructure Assets**

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2007/08 \$(000)	FTE	Estimate 2007/08 \$(000)	Variance Over/(Under) \$(000)	Expl. No.
12(a) Parks Infrastructure Projects	4,797.3		5,345.2	(547.9)	1.
12(b) Camping Improvements	1,162.2		1,540.5	(378.3)	2.
12(c) Cottage Lots Development	3,557.5		2,825.3	732.2	3.
<b>Total B.12</b>	<b>9,517.0</b>		<b>9,711.0</b>	<b>(194.0)</b>	

- Under-expenditures were primarily due to project deferrals as a result of delays in both environmental approval processes and construction estimates and tendering.
- Under-expenditures were mainly due to project deferrals as a result of delays in design, cost estimates, and tendering.
- Over-expenditures were due to acceleration of Cottage Lot Development projects to meet provincial Cottaging program commitments, as well as increasing costs of materials and labour required for road development.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION

Under *The Sustainable Development Act*, each department is required to integrate into its annual reporting process information about progress made in incorporating sustainable development into its activities. The section below provides just a few examples of the many activities the Department has undertaken to incorporate or apply the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development into its everyday operations and activities. Please note that a particular example may exemplify more than one principle and/or guideline.

## Principles of Sustainable Development

### 1. Integration of Environmental, Social, Health and Economic Decisions

To meet the intent of Principle # 1, the Department ensures:

- a) its economic decisions and activities adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects; and
- b) its environmental and health decisions, activities and initiatives adequately take into account economic, human health and social consequences.

Examples:

- Maintained an Environmental Assessment and Licensing process that was effective, transparent and fair, and continued to meet all legislative and regulatory requirements, including the opportunity for public involvement and participation;
- Managed land use, municipal, industrial, and hazardous waste sources of pollutants through appropriate licence specifications, limits, terms and conditions that ensure protection at all project stages (construction through to decommissioning).
- Reviewed Crown Land applications, including assignments, general permits, sales, leases and permit applications to ensure resource and land use activities are consistent with the long term land use objectives.

### 2. Stewardship

To meet the intent of Principle # 2, the Department ensures:

- a) its plans, policies and decisions ensure the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being are managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations; and
- b) its decisions are balanced with tomorrow's effects.

Examples:

- Facilitated the transition of Manitoba's tire stewardship program to Tire Stewardship Manitoba, an industry-led organization. The new program is intended to ensure the environmental and economic sustainability of Manitoba's scrap tire recycling program.
- Regulated programs under *The WRAP Act* resulted in 94,224 tonnes of recycled material in 2007/08, including 10,933 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, over 68,808 tonnes of packaging and paper from residences and 14,483 tonnes of used oil products. The amount of material collected through these programs increased by 3,681 tonnes from the previous year.
- Supported innovative solutions to environmental issues through the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention Fund, Environmental Youth Corps.
- Contributed to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba.

### **3. Shared Responsibility and Understanding**

To meet the intent of Principle # 3, the Department ensures:

- a) it takes responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being and be accountable for its decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open co-operation with all Manitobans;
- b) its decisions and activities reflect Manitoba's shared common economic, physical and social environment;
- c) it understands and respects differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations in its decision making and activities; and
- d) it considers and reflects in its decisions and activities the aspirations, needs and views of the people of the various geographical and ethnic groups in Manitoba, including aboriginal peoples to facilitate equitable management of Manitoba's common resources.

Examples:

- Deployed a made-in-Manitoba Parks Reservation System, which won the 2007 Project Management Institute (Manitoba) award, the 2007 Manitoba Service Excellence Team Award, and was a 2007 Canadian Innovation and Productivity Award (CIPA) Finalist.
- Continued to support the "Re-Connecting with the Land" educational program developed in partnership with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Center and the Fur Institute of Canada that focuses on community studies, fishing, hunting and trapping.
- Assisted in the creation of the Manitoba Game Bird Hunting Partnership with non-government organizations to address Provincial game bird issues.
- Implemented the Management Plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park and initiated work to establish a Trails Working Group to plan for and enable recreational ATV use that is user-based and environmentally sustainable.
- Continued to work with communities in various parts of the Province that were interested in developing forestry based businesses, such as saw mills or log home building establishments.
- Created and fostered partnerships with Aboriginal communities that will build positive relationships in relations to program development, advocacy and capacity building.
- Reviewed and coordinated the Provincial Land Use Policies for which Manitoba Conservation, ensuring alignment with the principles and guidelines of sustainable development.

### **4. Prevention**

To meet the intent of Principle # 4, the Department ensures:

- a) its activities, decisions, and legislation anticipate and prevent or mitigate significant adverse economic, environmental, human health and social effects; and
- b) have particular careful regard to its decisions and actions whose impacts are not entirely certain but which, on reasonable and well-informed grounds, appear to pose serious threats to the economy, the environment, human health and social well being.

Examples:

- Developed a new *Forest Health Protection Act* to protect Manitoba's urban, rural and commercial forests from invasive pests, which received royal assent in the fall of 2007. The new Act helps the province prevent the importation of forest pests into Manitoba and enables controls and measures to eradicate infestations if they occur.
- Continued priority work in the Livestock program through inspections of new construction, addressing manure spills and complaints.
- Developed a Near-Urban Wildlife Strategy to address human safety and property damage concerns in consultation with the municipalities around Winnipeg.
- Implemented a new provincial timber pricing system on January 1, 2008. The new system establishes monthly timber dues rates based upon the commodity values of softwood lumber, newsprint, oriented strand board and kraft forest products.
- Minimized adverse effects to the environment and public health from pesticide use through appropriate Permit specifications, limits, terms and conditions.

- Assisted the public in the Environmental Assessment, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, Pesticide Permit and Wastewater and Operator Certification processes.
- Coordinated the public review of two new proposed regulations under *The WRAP Act*. The proposed *Hazardous Household Material Stewardship Regulation* and proposed *Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulation* would shift responsibility for managing these targeted waste materials to new organizations to be established by industry stewards.
- Continued to monitor outdoor ambient air quality monitoring successfully at the established provincial sites; audited the air quality monitoring activities of others.

## 5. Conservation and Enhancement

To meet the intent of Principle # 5, the Department ensures:

- a) its activities and decisions maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment;
- b) that renewable natural resources are harvested on a sustainable yield basis;
- c) that those persons who have been allocated provincial resources make wise and efficient use of them; and
- d) its programs and activities enhance the long-term productive capability, quality and capacity of natural ecosystems.

Examples:

- Designated Little Limestone Lake as a Provincial Park Reserve with the support of Mosakahiken Cree Nations and the mining sector.
- An additional 4,684 hectares of new protected areas were established, bringing the total area of protected lands in Manitoba to over 5.4 million hectares (or 8.4 per cent of Manitoba lands).
- Assisted nomination of Red River being formally designated as a member of the Canadian Heritage Rivers in the summer of 2007 at a gala ceremony at The Forks in Winnipeg, in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference.
- Implemented a new provincial timber pricing system on January 1, 2008. The new system establishes monthly timber dues rates based upon the commodity values of softwood lumber, newsprint, oriented strand board and kraft forest products.
- Published two guidelines developed by the Forest Practices Committee - "Forest Management Guidelines for Riparian Management Areas" and "Manitoba's Submission Guidelines for Twenty Year Forest Management Plans".
- Implemented recovery efforts for 25 species at risk in Manitoba, an investment of over \$500,000. Species at risk included Woodland Caribou (Boreal population), Piping Plover, Wood Bison, Dakota Skipper, Ottoe and Poweshiek Skipper, Prairie Skink, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike (eastern and western subspecies), Small White Lady's-slipper, Hairy Prairie-clover, Buffalograss, Ross's Gull, Western Spiderwort, Smooth Goosefoot, Western Silvery Aster, Riddell's Goldenrod, Whooping Crane, Ivory Gull, Long-billed Curlew, Short-eared Owl, Wolverine, and Western Prairie Fringed-orchid.
- Promoted agricultural activities that incorporate wise land stewardship and biodiversity conservation through The Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Project by entering into agreements with landowners to implement the twice-over rotational grazing system on native grasslands. In 2007/08, eight five-year agreements were signed to protect 2,064 acres of native grasslands.
- Continued to work closely with the forest industry, other stakeholders and First Nations to protect boreal caribou habitat and to ensure there is an adequate supply of their life requirements over the long term.

## 6. Rehabilitation and Reclamation

To meet the intent of Principle # 6, the Department ensures:

- a) it actively endeavors to repair or have repaired damage to, or degradation of, the environment; and
- b) that the Department builds into its future allocations of and plans for the use of resources the requirement to rehabilitate and reclaim areas and resources that may be damaged.

**Examples:**

- Additional lands were purchased for the Proven Lake Heritage Marsh in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada and The Nature Conservancy of Canada. The newly acquired property will be used for the development of wildlife viewing facilities.
- Implemented a salvage program in Whiteshell Provincial Park to reduce the risk of wildfire due to windstorm forest damage. Contact was made with business, campers and several hundred cottagers including local interest groups. Over 200,000 cubic meters of wood was salvage harvested from 2,000 ha of forested land throughout the winter.
- Researched and published a report on the results of a detailed study of metal concentrations in soils in Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan, titled *Concentrations of Metals and Other Elements in Surface Soils of Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan, 2006*.

## **7. Global Responsibility**

To meet the intent of Principle # 7, the Department ensures:

- a) it thinks globally when acting locally, recognizing there is economic, ecological and social interdependence among provinces and nation; and
- b) it works co-operatively, within Canada and internationally, to integrate economic, environmental, human health and social factors in decision making while developing comprehensive and equitable solutions to problems.

**Examples:**

- The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a member of NatureServe International, a network of 80 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere, and also a member of NatureServe Canada. The CDC completes an annual exchange of data integrating Manitoba's data with the entire network. Information from the Canadian CDC databases is recognized by Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada Agency as being a key component of their efforts to monitor and protect species at risk.
- Participated on the Watchable Wildlife Working Group to develop an International Birding Trail with the State of Minnesota.
- Influenced local and regional waterfowl management through participation and input into local, national and international working groups such as the Urban Goose Working Group, the Manitoba Game Bird Partnership and the Mississippi Flyway Council.
- Continued to participate with South Africa in an international project to work on sustainability issues and indicators.

## **Sustainable Development Guidelines**

### **1. Efficient Uses of Resources**

To meet the intent of Guidelines # 1, the Department ensures:

- a) encourage and facilitate development and application and use of systems for proper resource pricing, demand management and resource allocation together with incentives to encourage efficient use of resources; and
- b) employ full-cost accounting to provide better information for decision-makers.

**Examples:**

- The *Forest Productivity Program* manages databases and uses statistical techniques and tools, including models for predicting growth, decay, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests. The program provides the base information to assist in timber supply sustained yield projections, provincial forest management plans and silviculture activities.

### **2. Public Participation**

To meet the intent of Guideline # 2, the Department ensures:

- a) use and establish forums which encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in departmental decision making processes by Manitobans;

- b) provide due process, prior notification and appropriate and timely redress for those adversely affected by departmental decisions and actions; and
- c) strive to achieve consensus amongst citizens and the Department with regard to decisions affecting them.

Examples:

- Consulted with stakeholders to develop a more effective Park District Service System.
- Recruited new volunteers for the Breeding Bird Survey in Manitoba for several vacant routes, some existing participants took on additional routes, and weather was co-operative during much of the survey period. These factors combined to produce a record number of routes (61) and observers (37) and a total of 230 species recorded along BBS routes in Manitoba during 2007.
- Managed a province-wide network of 824 private and 146 departmental license vendors through which convenient access was provided to the public for angling, hunting, migratory waterfowl, trapping, fur dealer, park vehicle entry, camping, arborist and various other licenses and permits.
- Supported mentored youth hunting events that provided an educational experience to encourage hunting among Manitoba's youth. The purpose is to introduce youth to the concepts of ethical utilization and stewardship of waterfowl and other natural resources, encourage youth and adults to experience the outdoors together and to contribute to the long-term conservation and management of game birds.
- Continued to play an instrumental role in developing a government-wide policy on consultation with First Nation people. Undertook meaningful consultation with Aboriginal communities whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by the Louisiana Pacific Forest Management Plan and the Southern Hardwood Development Project/First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership Forest Management License.

### **3. Access to Information**

To meet the intent of Guideline # 3, the Department ensures:

- a) improve and refine economic, environmental, human health and social information related to natural resources and the environment; and
- b) provide and promote the opportunity for equal and timely access to its information by all Manitobans.

Examples:

- Conservation and Environment Library supported access to print and electronic specialized information resources for Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and the public. Current information related to the mandates of each partner organization is made available to staff and to the public.
- Continued enhancements to the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse which is available online to the general public via the Intranet. This repository is being significantly enhanced with new data sets and new user interfaces. The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS data and related databases and meta-data, with interactive mapping tools. The data warehouse now has over 12,000 registered users.
- Completed a successful "data mining" exercise with Parks Canada, whereby Parks Canada staff provided information on plants and animals in Riding Mountain and Wapusk National Parks. The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre created new and updated records in its database for those species that were of conservation concern, including bird species such as Chimney Swift and Golden-winged Warbler, and a number of butterfly and moth species, all of which have recently been listed under Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA).
- Provided design, layout and illustration services to all programs areas through complete publication of several booklets and brochures, including: Junior Naturalist & Park Explorer Booklets, the Protected Areas Initiative Booklet, Red River Heritage Posters, the Interprovincial Park Management Plan, the 20-year Forest Management Plan, and the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

#### **4. Integrated Decision Making and Planning**

To meet the intent of Guideline # 4, the Department ensures:

- a) encourage, facilitate, establish and ensure its decision making and planning processes are efficient, timely, accountable and cross-sectoral; and
- b) incorporate into its decision-making and planning an inter-generational perspective of future needs and consequences.

Examples:

- Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Planning Initiative ensures that future land, resource and development decisions address the environmental, social, health, cultural, and economic needs of First Nations, the public, local communities, and various stakeholders and interest groups in the area on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Conservation's WNO Secretariat provided administrative, planning and research support to its principal bodies, the WNO Council and the WNO Council of Chiefs.
- Monitored the transmission line and road development associated with Manitoba Hydro's Wuskwatim project and worked with Hydro staff to address and mitigate issues as they occurred. Assistance was provided in designing mitigation measures for boreal woodland caribou occurring along the transmission line routing.
- Developed land management strategies such as forestry plans and practices to secure the future of Manitoba's threatened boreal woodland caribou. Some animals from selected ranges are equipped with GPS and VHF radio collars to enable biologists to monitor movement and thereby identify critical ranges. Data are used to identify habitat preferences and examine mechanisms for cycling habitat with the objective being to have habitat available for the future.
- Participated in the Watchable Wildlife Working Group to develop an International Birding Trail with the State of Minnesota and development of viewing sites at Whitewater Lake, Oak Hammock Marsh, Proven Lake, Hecla Island, Pembina Valley Provincial Park, and others.
- Worked closely to ensure co-ordination on sustainable forestry issues, such as wood supply, fibre quality, forest management, wood tenure, etc., and worked to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.
- Continued to chair the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee.
- Acquired an ecologically significant parcel of private land in South Eastern Manitoba. It is the only site in Manitoba where the three native pines (jack, red, white) are known to occur. The site is currently being evaluated for designation as an ecological reserve.
- The Red River was formally designated as a member of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System in the summer of 2007 and work began on the preparation of the second ten-year report on the Bloodvein River as a Canadian Heritage River.

#### **5. Waste Minimization and Substitution**

To meet the intent of Guideline # 5, the Department ensures:

- a) encourage and promote, within and outside of the Department, the development and use of substitutes for scarce resources where such substitutes are both environmentally sound and economically viable; and
- b) reduce, reuse, recycle and recover the products the Department uses in its daily operations and encourage, promote and facilitate the 4 R's in society generally.

Examples:

- Facilitated the transition of Manitoba's tire stewardship program to Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM), an industry-led organization. The new program is intended to ensure the environmental and economic sustainability of Manitoba's scrap tire recycling program.
- Continued to work in cooperation with Green Manitoba to shift Manitoba's product stewardship approach to a regulated steward responsibility model with a focus on four waste minimization priorities: tires, blue box materials, household hazardous waste, and waste from electronic products (e-waste).
- Developed a regional program to salvage approximately 500,000 cubic meters of accessible wood in Whiteshell Provincial Park. The salvage program was implemented to reduce the risk of wildfire and

was vetted through public meetings. Over 200,000 cubic meters of wood was salvaged harvested from 2,000 ha of forested land throughout the winter.

- Continued to work with Green Manitoba to finalize and implement new regulatory requirements under *The WRAP Act* to address priority waste streams as identified in Manitoba's Green and Growing Strategy, including packaging and printed paper, hazardous household materials and electrical and electronic equipment.
- Supported Resource Conservation Manitoba (RCM) through a grant from the WRAPP Fund to deliver Waste Reduction Services, including the Environmental Speakers' Bureau, Waste Reduction Week activities, compost workshops and education, and provision of Environmental Information Services.
- Regulated programs under *The WRAP Act* resulted in 94,224 tonnes of recycled material in 2007/08, including 10,933 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, over 68,808 tonnes of packaging and paper from residences and 14,483 tonnes of used oil products. The amount of material collected through these programs increased by 3,681 tonnes from the previous year.

## 6. Research and Innovation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 6, the Department ensures:

- a) encourage and assist in the research, development, application and sharing of knowledge and technologies which further economic, environmental, human health and social well-being.

Examples:

- Continued woodland caribou research and monitoring to complete a regional data base of distribution and relative abundance. Provincial and federal legislative protection of this threatened species requires regional staff to assess potential impacts of forest harvesting, mining, hydro developments and other industrial and recreational developments on resident caribou populations. Manitoba continues to work closely with the forest industry, First Nations and other stakeholders to protect boreal caribou habitat and to ensure there is an adequate supply of their life requirements over the long term.
- The Summerberry Research Project in the Lower Saskatchewan River Delta continued into the second field season with three graduate students and assistants studying the effects of water regulation on muskrats, vegetation, and water birds in six selected basins. Ducks Unlimited Canada, Manitoba Conservation, and Manitoba Hydro are providing financial and in kind support to the overall program with involvement of both University of Manitoba and Iowa State University.
- Collected forest health data in regeneration, free-to-grow and pre-harvest surveys to develop management prescriptions and track substantially infected stands. Surveys, efficacy tests and research on significant insects and diseases were also conducted. Significant pests and diseases monitored included spruce budworm, Dutch elm disease, jack pine budworm, elm bark beetles, dwarf mistletoe, western gall rust, armillaria root rot, spruce beetle, eastern larch beetle and pine root collar weevil.
- The *Tree Improvement Program* provided a genetically improved seed source for reforestation and to ensure the conservation of the forest genetic resource. The program consists of eight government/industry co-operatives, with Tolko Manitoba, Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company and Tembec and six provincial programs. All work involved in the maintenance and assessment of family tests and the management of seed orchards is completed by tree improvement staff who manage and provide technical direction.
- The *Rapid Removal Dutch Elm Disease Research Project* by the University of Manitoba completed its second field season in 2007. The objectives of the project are to investigate the potential benefits of early removal of diseased elms to DED management and to find an environmentally friendlier alternative for the pesticide currently used to control native elm bark beetles. This project is a collaboration between the City of Winnipeg, the Coalition to Save the Elms, Manitoba Conservation and the University of Manitoba.
- Participated in a Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Biodiversity Working Group that is implementing programs such as bio-informatics, reporting on status and trends in biodiversity, monitoring alien invasive species, and eco-citizenship, including stewardship. Manitoba Conservation organized and co-hosted the 16th annual FPT Biodiversity Working Group meeting held in Winnipeg on April 16-18, 2007.

- Completed two coastal polar bear surveys. A July survey done after little ice remains in Hudson Bay revealed 133 polar bears and a September survey showed 138 polar bears. Staff also assisted Canadian Wildlife Service staff in carrying out an experimental survey designed to provide a population estimate for the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation of polar bears.
- More Great Gray Owls were reported and banded in the boreal forests of southeast Manitoba during the winter of 2006/07. Twelve breeding pairs were observed during the 2007 nesting period, corresponding with rising populations of their main prey, the meadow vole. The Great Gray Owl is susceptible to West Nile Virus and ongoing monitoring efforts provide baseline data to assess the potential impact of this disease.
- Manitoba citizens continued to help the Department better understand the distribution, relative abundance and conservation status of dragonflies in the Province.

## **Sustainable Development Procurement Goals**

### **1. Education, Training, and Awareness**

To meet the intent of Goal #1, the department ensures a culture that supports sustainable procurement practices exists within the department by:

- increasing awareness about the benefits of Sustainable Development Procurement among departments, employees and vendors; and
- expanding the knowledge and skills of procurement practitioners and end users.

Examples:

- Continued to focus on procurement education and training needs and supported the development of environmentally preferable product and services checklists for staff use.
- Continued to adjust manuals and procedures such as the Department's Contract Manual, to reflect sustainable development procurement guidelines. Department staff involved in procurement must ensure sustainability is considered for all purchase requisitions.
- Shared information on sustainable development procurement and the provincial green buildings policy with staff, vendors and contractors.

### **2. Pollution Prevention and Human Health Protection**

To meet the intent of Goal #2, the department ensures to protect the health and environment of Manitobans from possible adverse effects of their operations and activities, and provide a safe and healthy working environment by:

- reducing its purchase and use of toxic substances; and
- reducing solid waste sent to landfill from Government of Manitoba owned or leased facilities occupied by the department.

Examples:

- Ensured janitorial contracts specify that toxic substances are to be replaced with environmentally friendly products.
- Followed standards for waste management and recycling for all Manitoba Conservation owned buildings and facilities. All offices are required to use recycled paper and remanufactured toner cartridges. Duplex copier equipment is required where volumes warrant.
- Continued to upgrade and refresh the training of the Emergency Response Team and Regional personnel. Courses included: Incident Command; Awareness, Operations, and Technicians levels of Hazardous Materials Response; Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced levels of chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear (CBRN) response; monitoring equipment refreshers; and Specialist training for Environmental Spill Response and Recovery. Various other training initiatives were made available to the Response Program personnel to upgrade their skill sets.

### **3. Reduction of Fossil Fuel Emissions**

To meet the intent of Goal #3, the department ensures to reduce fossil fuel emissions of its operations and activities by:

- a) reducing both consumption and emissions of vehicle fuels; and
- b) as a substitute for regular fuels, increase its use of ethanol-blended fuels and alternative energy sources.

Examples:

- Continued to encourage use of ethanol fuel, where available. A map identifying stations providing ethanol in relation to Conservation's government vehicle fleet is in use for reference of managers and drivers.
- Acquired four new hybrid vehicles, bringing the Department fleet total to eight.

#### **4. Resource Conservation**

To meet the intent of Goal #4, the department ensures to reduce its use and consumption of resources in a sustainable and environmentally preferable manner by:

- a) reducing the total annual consumption of utilities including natural gas, electricity, propane, fuel oil and water in all leased or owned Government of Manitoba buildings and premises occupied by the department; and
- b) within the context of reduced resource use, increasing the proportion of environmentally preferable products and environmentally preferable services used by the department.

Examples:

- Continued to conduct audits on Manitoba Conservation owned buildings to develop realistic minimum requirements to undertake retrofits. Standard clauses for sustainable development procurement on all purchase requisitions are reflected in the Department's Contract Manual.
- Extended the life and capacity of provincial park infrastructure and enhanced recreational opportunities through upgrading, improving and developing park facilities. Environmental protection in provincial parks was enhanced through the installation and construction of appropriate facilities for the treatment of water and sewage, and the disposal of garbage.

#### **5. Community Economic Development**

To meet the intent of Goal #5, the department ensures to ensure that their procurement practices foster and sustain community economic development by:

- a) increasing the participation of Aboriginal peoples and suppliers in providing for the department's goods and services needs;
- b) assisting in the development and growth of local environmental industries and markets for environmentally preferable products and services; and
- c) increasing the participation of small businesses, community based businesses and Co-ops in the department's procurement opportunities.

Examples:

- Continued efforts toward enhancing Aboriginal and local procurement in support of community based economic development within the context of government's public tendering policies.
- Participated in the acquisition of new federal-provincial program funding for Forintek and FPIInnovations. Forintek employs industry advisors to assist in industry diversification and competitiveness. FPIInnovations established a new liaison officer to help transfer research knowledge regarding harvesting of wood, transportation and forest road construction, and silviculture.
- Continued offering the Cottage Lot Initiative, which makes cottage lots available to Manitobans. New development enhances the quality of life for Manitobans by providing opportunities to enjoy Manitoba's natural beauty and provides economic benefits to communities and municipalities. Benefits are derived from the initial construction of the infrastructure, as well as from cottage construction and ongoing local spending and tax contributions.
- Regional staff continued working with the Mathias Colomb First Nation in assessing the potential economic and employment benefits associated with community-based forest management initiatives.

# INTÉGRATION DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

En vertu de la *Loi sur le développement durable*, chaque ministère est tenu de faire état, dans son rapport annuel, des progrès accomplis sur le plan de l'intégration du développement durable dans ses activités. La section ci-dessous ne fournit que quelques exemples des nombreuses activités que le Ministère a entreprises pour intégrer ou appliquer les principes et lignes directrices du développement durable dans ses fonctions et activités quotidiennes. Veuillez noter qu'un exemple peut illustrer plus d'un principe ou d'une ligne directrice.

## Principes de développement durable

### 1. Intégration des décisions touchant l'environnement, la société, la santé et l'économie

Pour respecter l'esprit du principe n° 1, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) faire en sorte que ses décisions et activités économiques reflètent de façon adéquate les effets sur l'environnement, la santé et la société;
- b) faire en sorte que ses décisions, activités et initiatives en matière d'environnement et de santé tiennent compte de façon adéquate des conséquences sur l'économie, la santé et la société.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a eu recours à un processus d'évaluation environnementale et de délivrance de permis qui était efficace, transparent et équitable et il a continué à satisfaire aux exigences prévues par la loi et les règlements, y compris les possibilités de participation et d'engagement du public.
- Le Ministère a géré l'aménagement du territoire, ainsi que les sources municipales et industrielles de déchets dangereux en élaborant des spécifications, des limites et des conditions appropriées pour les licences afin d'assurer la protection de l'environnement à toutes les étapes des projets, de la construction au déclassement des installations.
- Le Ministère a examiné les demandes relatives aux terres domaniales, y compris les cessions, les permis généraux, les ventes, les locations et les demandes de permis afin de veiller à ce que les activités d'exploitation des ressources et d'aménagement du territoire correspondent aux objectifs à long terme en matière d'utilisation du sol.

### 2. Gestion

Pour respecter l'esprit du principe n° 2, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) ses plans, politiques et décisions font en sorte que l'économie, l'environnement, la santé et le bien-être social sont gérés pour le bénéfice des générations présentes et futures;
- b) ses décisions tiennent compte des conséquences futures.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a facilité le transfert du programme de gestion des pneus du Manitoba à Tire Stewardship Manitoba, un organisme piloté par l'industrie. Le nouvel organisme vise à assurer la viabilité environnementale et économique du programme manitobain de recyclage des pneus de rebut.
- En vertu des programmes réglementaires établis dans le cadre de la *Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets*, 94 224 tonnes de matériaux ont été recyclées en 2007-2008 dont 10 933 tonnes de caoutchouc provenant de pneus de rebut, plus de 68 808 tonnes de produits d'emballage et de papier recueillis chez les particuliers et 14 483 tonnes de produits d'huile usagés.

La quantité de matières recueillies dans le cadre des programmes ci-dessus s'est accrue de 3 681 tonnes par rapport à l'exercice précédent.

- Le Ministère a soutenu les solutions innovatrices aux questions environnementales par le biais du Fonds des innovations de développement durable, du Fonds de réduction des déchets et de prévention de la pollution et de la Brigade des jeunes environnementalistes.
- Le Ministère a contribué au développement durable à long terme en établissant un réseau de zones centrales protégées conçues pour conserver les écosystèmes et assurer la biodiversité au Manitoba.

### 3. Responsabilité et compréhension

Pour respecter l'esprit du principe n° 3, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) reconnaître qu'il est responsable du développement durable de l'économie, de l'environnement, de la santé et du bien-être social, et assumer aussi la responsabilité de ses décisions et de ses actions dans un esprit de collaboration et de coopération avec l'ensemble des Manitobains et Manitobaines;
- b) par ses décisions et activités, illustrer le fait que les Manitobains et Manitobaines ont un environnement économique, physique et social commun;
- c) dans ses décisions et activités, comprendre et respecter les valeurs, traditions, aspirations et points de vue différents en matière économique et sociale;
- d) dans ses décisions et activités, tenir compte des aspirations, des besoins et des points de vue des diverses régions et des divers groupes ethniques du Manitoba, notamment ceux des peuples autochtones, en vue d'une gestion équitable des ressources communes de la province.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a mis en oeuvre un système de réservation des parcs entièrement manitobain qui a remporté le prix de 2007 du Project Management Institute (Manitoba) et le prix manitobain de groupe pour l'excellence du service de 2007, et qui a été finaliste pour les Canadian Innovation and Productivity Awards (CIPA).
- Le Ministère a continué à soutenir le programme éducatif intitulé *Re-connecting with the Land* qui a été élaboré en collaboration avec le Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre et l'Institut de la fourrure du Canada et qui se concentre sur les études communautaires, la pêche, la chasse et le piégeage.
- Le Ministère a participé à la création du Manitoba Game Bird Hunting Partnership avec des organismes non gouvernementaux en vue de traiter les questions relatives au gibier à plumes.
- Le Ministère a mis en oeuvre le plan de gestion du parc provincial du mont Duck et a entrepris d'établir un groupe de travail sur les pistes chargé de planifier et de permettre l'utilisation ludique des VTT axée sur les utilisateurs et durable sur le plan de l'environnement.
- Le Ministère a continué de collaborer avec diverses collectivités de la province qui étaient intéressées à établir des entreprises forestières, telles que des scieries ou des entreprises de construction de maisons en bois rond.
- Le Ministère a créé et favorisé des partenariats avec les collectivités autochtones en vue d'établir des relations positives dans les secteurs de l'élaboration de programmes, de la promotion des droits et du renforcement des capacités.
- Le Ministère a examiné et coordonné les politiques provinciales d'aménagement du territoire en veillant à ce qu'elles correspondent aux principes et aux lignes directrices du développement durable.

#### 4. Prévention

Pour respecter l'esprit du principe n° 4, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) dans ses activités, décisions et textes législatifs, prévoir les conséquences néfastes d'envergure pour l'économie, l'environnement, la santé et la société, les prévenir ou en limiter les effets;
- b) tenir particulièrement compte de ses décisions et actions dont les conséquences ne sont pas entièrement claires, mais qui, en se fondant sur des motifs raisonnables et bien informés, semblent créer de graves menaces pour l'économie, l'environnement, la santé et le bien-être social.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a préparé une nouvelle *Loi sur la protection de la santé des forêts* qui visent à protéger les forêts urbaines, rurales et commerciales du Manitoba contre les insectes et les maladies des forêts. Elle a reçu la sanction royale au cours de l'automne 2007. La nouvelle loi aide la province à prévenir l'importation de parasites des forêts au Manitoba et autorise l'adoption de mesures de lutte pour éradiquer les infestations, au besoin.
- Le Ministère a poursuivi son travail prioritaire dans le cadre des programmes relatifs au bétail en inspectant les nouvelles constructions et en traitant les déversements de déjections animales et les plaintes.
- En consultation avec les municipalités qui entourent Winnipeg, le Ministère a élaboré une stratégie de contrôle de la faune en milieu périurbain pour répondre aux préoccupations concernant la sécurité des personnes et les dommages matériels.
- Le Ministère a mis en oeuvre un nouveau système provincial d'établissement du prix du bois d'oeuvre le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2008. Le nouveau système établit des droits de coupe mensuels qui sont fondés sur la valeur à la consommation du bois d'oeuvre de résineux, du papier journal, des panneaux à copeaux orientés et des produits de carton ou de papier kraft.
- Le Ministère a minimisé les effets sur l'environnement et la santé publique de l'utilisation des pesticides en élaborant des spécifications, des limites et des conditions appropriées pour les permis.
- Le Ministère a aidé la population à participer aux processus relatifs aux évaluations environnementales, au transport des matières dangereuses, aux permis d'utilisation de pesticides et aux certificats d'opérateur et de traitement des eaux usées.
- Le Ministère a coordonné l'examen public de deux nouveaux règlements proposés en vertu de la *Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets*. Les règlements intitulés *Hazardous Household Material Stewardship Regulation* (règlement sur la gestion des déchets ménagers dangereux) et *Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulation* (règlement sur la gestion des équipements électriques et électroniques) transféreraient la responsabilité de la gestion des déchets ciblés à de nouveaux organismes établis par des coordonnateurs de l'industrie.
- Le Ministère a continué de surveiller la qualité de l'air extérieur ambiant à divers sites provinciaux établis et a vérifié les activités de surveillance de la qualité de l'air d'autres organismes.

#### 5. Conservation et promotion

Pour respecter l'esprit du principe n° 5, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) ses activités et décisions soutiennent les processus écologiques, la biodiversité et les systèmes qui entretiennent la vie de l'environnement;
- b) les ressources renouvelables sont exploitées en visant un rendement équilibré;
- c) les personnes à qui l'on confie des ressources provinciales les utilisent sagement et efficacement;
- d) par ses programmes et activités, faire la promotion de la productivité, de la qualité et de la capacité à long terme des écosystèmes naturels.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a désigné le lac Little Limestone comme une réserve aux fins de création d'un parc avec le soutien des nations cries Mosakahiken et le secteur minier.
- Le Ministère a établi des zones protégées additionnelles de 4 684 hectares pour hausser la superficie totale des zones protégées à plus de 5,4 millions d'hectares (8,4 % des toutes les terres du Manitoba).
- Le Ministère a participé à la mise en candidature de la rivière Rouge au titre de rivière du patrimoine canadien, qu'elle a obtenu au cours de l'été 2007 lors d'une soirée de gala à La Fourche à Winnipeg, en conjonction avec la 5<sup>e</sup> Conférence sur le patrimoine fluvial du Canada.
- Le Ministère a mis en oeuvre un nouveau système provincial d'établissement du prix du bois d'oeuvre le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2008. Le nouveau système établit des droits de coupe mensuels qui sont fondés sur la valeur à la consommation du bois d'oeuvre de résineux, du papier journal, des panneaux à copeaux orientés et des produits de carton ou de papier kraft.
- Le Ministère a publié deux ensemble de lignes directrices élaborés par le Comité des pratiques forestières, soit *Forest Management Guidelines for Riparian Management Areas* (lignes directrices de la gestion forestière des zones de gestion riveraines) et *Manitoba's Submission Guidelines for Twenty year Forest Management Plans* (lignes directrices de la soumission des plans de gestion forestière de vingt ans).
- Le Ministère a déployé des efforts de rétablissement pour 25 espèces à risque au Manitoba, soit un investissement de plus de 500 000 \$. Les espèces à risque comprenaient le caribou des bois (population boréale), le pluvier siffleur, le bison des bois, l'espèce du Dakota, l'espèce ottoé, l'espèce poweshiek, le scinque des Prairies, le faucon pèlerin, la buse rouilleuse, la chevêche des terriers, le pipit de Sprague, la pie-grièche migratrice (sous-espèces de l'Est et de l'Ouest), le cypripède blanc, le trèfle des champs des Prairies, l'herbe aux bisons, la mouette rosée, la tradescantie occidentale, le chénopode glabre, l'aster soyeux, la verge d'or de Riddell, la grue blanche, la mouette blanche, le courlis à long bec, le hibou des marais, le carcajou et la platanthère blanchâtre de l'Ouest.
- Le Ministère a fait la promotion d'activités agricoles qui intègrent un aménagement judicieux du territoire agricole et la conservation de la biodiversité dans le cadre du Mixed-Grass Prairie Grazing Project (projet de pâturage sur prairie mixte) en signant des accords avec des propriétaires fonciers afin qu'ils adoptent le système de pâturage tournant à deux reprises sur les pâturages indigènes. En 2007-2008, le Ministère a conclu 8 accords quinquennaux qui ont permis de protéger 2 064 acres de pâturages indigènes.
- Le Ministère a continué de collaborer étroitement avec l'industrie forestière, d'autres intervenants du secteur et des Premières nations en vue de protéger l'habitat du caribou des bois et de veiller à ce que les besoins vitaux des animaux soient satisfaits à long terme.

## 6. Récupération et remise en état

Pour respecter l'esprit du principe n° 6, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) s'engager à remédier aux dommages et à la détérioration subis par l'environnement;
- b) tenir compte des besoins de remise en état et de récupération des zones et des ressources éventuellement endommagées avant de prendre de nouvelles décisions ou d'adopter de nouveaux plans en matière d'exploitation des ressources.

**Exemples d'activité :**

- Le Ministère a acheté de nouvelles terres pour le marais du patrimoine du lac Proven en collaboration avec Canards Illimités Canada et Conservation de la nature Canada. Les nouvelles superficies seront utilisées pour aménager des installations d'observation de la faune.
- Le Ministère a mis en oeuvre un programme de récupération dans le parc provincial Whiteshell afin de réduire le risque de feu échappé en raison des dommages causés aux forêts par les tempêtes de vent. Le Ministère a communiqué avec les entreprises, les campeurs et plusieurs centaines de propriétaires de chalet, ainsi qu'avec des groupes d'intérêts locaux. On a récupéré plus de 200 000 mètres cubes de bois sur une superficie de 2 000 hectares de terrains forestiers au cours de l'hiver.
- Le Ministère a mené des recherches et a publié un rapport sur les résultats d'une étude détaillée de la concentration des métaux dans le sol à Flin Flon (Manitoba) et Creighton (Saskatchewan) qui était intitulé *Concentrations of Metals and Other Elements in Surface Soils of Flin Flon, Manitoba, and Creighton, Saskatchewan, 2006*.

**7. Responsabilité planétaire**

Pour respecter l'esprit du principe n° 7, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) adopter un point de vue planétaire lorsqu'il agit en un lieu donné, en reconnaissant l'interdépendance économique, écologique et sociale des provinces et des nations;
- b) travallée en collaboration, au Canada et sur la scène internationale, pour intégrer les facteurs économiques, environnementaux, sociaux et de santé dans les décisions adoptées, tout en essayant de découvrir des solutions équitables et exhaustives aux problèmes.

**Exemples d'activité :**

- Le Centre de données sur la conservation du Manitoba (CDC) est membre de NatureServe International, un réseau de 80 centres semblables qui surveillent la biodiversité dans l'ensemble de l'hémisphère occidental, et il est aussi membre de NatureServe Canada. Chaque année, le CDC échange des données intégrant les données du Manitoba dans le réseau tout entier. L'information provenant des bases de données des CDC canadiens est considérée par le Service canadien de la faune et Parcs Canada comme l'un des éléments clés de leur travail de surveillance et de protection des espèces en péril.
- Le Ministère a participé au Watchable Wildlife Working Group (groupe de travail sur l'observation de la faune) en vue d'aménager une piste internationale d'observation d'oiseaux avec le Minnesota.
- Le Ministère a exercé une influence sur la gestion locale et régionale du gibier d'eau en participant et en contribuant à des groupes de travail locaux, nationaux et internationaux comme le Groupe de travail sur les bernaches en milieu urbain, le Manitoba Game Bird Partnership et le Mississippi Flyway Council.
- Le Ministère a maintenu sa participation avec l'Afrique du Sud à un projet international d'étude des questions de développement durable et d'élaboration d'indicateurs.

**Lignes directrices en matière de développement durable**

**1. Utilisation efficace des ressources**

Pour respecter l'esprit de la ligne directrice n° 1, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) encourager et faciliter l'élaboration et l'application de systèmes permettant la juste détermination du prix des ressources, la bonne gestion de la demande et la répartition appropriée des ressources assortie de mesures incitatives pour leur utilisation efficace;
- b) appliquer la méthode du coût de revient complet pour mieux informer les décideurs.

Exemple d'activité :

- Le Programme de productivité des forêts gère des bases de données et a recours à des techniques et outils statistiques, y compris des modèles de prévision de la croissance, de la dévitalisation, du rendement et de la qualité des forêts manitobaines. Le Programme fournit les renseignements de base pour faciliter la projection du rendement soutenu de l'approvisionnement forestier, l'élaboration des plans de gestion provinciaux des forêts et les activités de sylviculture.

## 2. Participation du public

Pour respecter l'esprit de la ligne directrice n° 2, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) créer des forums pour consulter les Manitobains et Manitobaines afin qu'ils participent pleinement à la prise de décision du Ministère;
- b) prévoir une procédure équitable, la notification préalable et la réparation satisfaisante et dans des délais raisonnables pour les personnes qui ont eu à subir les conséquences des décisions et des mesures adoptées par le Ministère;
- c) mettre tout en oeuvre pour arriver à un consensus entre les particuliers et le Ministère sur les décisions qui les concernent.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a consulté les intervenants du secteur en vue d'élaborer un système de droits de service plus efficace dans les districts de parcs.
- Le Ministère a recruté de nouveaux bénévoles pour plusieurs parcours vacants dans le cadre du Relevé des oiseaux nicheurs au Manitoba. Certains participants ont adopté des parcours additionnels et les conditions météorologiques ont été favorables pendant presque toute la période du Relevé. Ces facteurs se sont traduits par un nombre record de parcours (61) et d'observateurs (37) et par l'observation recueillie d'un total de 230 espèces le long des parcours du Relevé au Manitoba en 2007.
- Le Ministère a géré un réseau provincial de 824 vendeurs de permis privés et de 146 vendeurs ministériels qui ont offert au public un accès pratique aux permis de pêche récréative, de chasse, de chasse au gibier d'eau migrateur, de piégeage, de marchand de fourrure, de circulation dans les parcs, de camping, d'arboriste et à divers autres permis et licences.
- Le Ministère a soutenu les parties de chasse encadrées à l'intention des jeunes qui ont offert une expérience éducative et visaient à encourager la chasse chez les jeunes Manitobains et Manitobaines. Ces activités ont pour objectifs de présenter aux jeunes les concepts d'utilisation et de gestion éthique du gibier d'eau et des autres ressources naturelles, d'encourager les jeunes et les adultes à profiter ensemble du plein air et de contribuer à la conservation et à la gestion à long terme du gibier à plumes.
- Le Ministère a continué de jouer un rôle instrumental dans l'élaboration d'une politique gouvernementale sur la consultation des Premières nations. Il a entrepris des consultations avec les collectivités autochtones dont les droits ancestraux et issus de traités risquent d'être touchés par les projets suivants : le plan de gestion forestière de la société Louisiana Pacific et le projet de mise en valeur des produits du bois de feuillus dans le Sud, pour lequel la First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership a obtenu une licence de gestion forestière.

## 3. Accès à l'information

Pour respecter l'esprit de la ligne directrice n° 3, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) améliorer l'information concernant les ressources naturelles et l'environnement sur les plans de l'économie, de l'environnement, de la santé et de la société;
- b) promouvoir un accès équitable et rapide à l'information pour l'ensemble de la population manitobaine.

#### Exemples d'activité :

- La Bibliothèque de l'environnement et de la conservation a soutenu l'accès à des ressources d'information imprimées et électroniques pour Conservation Manitoba, Gestion des ressources hydriques Manitoba, Environnement Canada à Winnipeg, le Conseil canadien des ministres de l'environnement (CCME) et le public. Des renseignements à jour sur le mandat de chacun des partenaires de la Bibliothèque sont à la disposition du personnel et du public.
- Le Ministère a continué d'améliorer l'entrepôt de données de la Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI), auquel le grand public peut avoir accès en ligne par un réseau Intranet. L'entrepôt a été amélioré par l'ajout de nouveaux ensembles de données et de nouvelles interfaces utilisateur. L'entrepôt contient toutes les données géospatiales du système d'information géographique (SIG), ainsi que des bases de données et métadonnées connexes, et des outils de topographie interactifs. L'entrepôt compte présentement plus de 12 000 utilisateurs inscrits.
- Le Ministère a participé à un exercice réussi d'exploration de données avec Parcs Canada, dans le cadre duquel le personnel de Parcs Canada a fourni des données sur les plantes et les animaux dans les parcs nationaux du Canada du Mont-Riding et Wapusk. Le Centre de données sur la conservation du Manitoba (CDC) a créé de nouveaux documents dans sa base de données et en a mis à jour d'autres pour les espèces qui préoccupaient le Ministère, y compris des espèces d'oiseaux telles que le martinet ramoneur et la paruline à ailes dorées et un certain nombre d'espèces de papillons de jour et de nuit, qui ont toutes été désignées en vertu de la *Loi sur les espèces en péril* du Canada.
- Le Ministère a fourni des services de conception, de mise en page et d'illustration à tous ses secteurs de programmation en publiant plusieurs livrets et brochures, y compris les livrets *Junior Naturalist & Park Explorer*, le livret *Protected Areas Initiative*, des affiches sur le patrimoine de la rivière Rouge, le plan interprovincial de gestion des parcs, le plan de gestion forestière de vingt ans et le plan de gestion intégrée des bassins hydrologiques.

#### 4. Prise de décision et planification intégrées

Pour respecter l'esprit de la directive n° 4, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) encourager et faciliter l'adoption et le respect de processus de prise de décision et de planification qui sont efficaces, rapides, fiables et intersectoriels;
- b) dans son processus de prise de décision et dans ses travaux de planification, adopter une perspective intergénérationnelle sur les besoins à venir et les conséquences.

#### Exemples d'activité :

- L'Initiative d'aménagement Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) veille à ce que les décisions à venir concernant les terres, les ressources et le développement tiennent compte des besoins des Premières nations, du public, des collectivités locales et de divers intervenants et groupes d'intérêt dans les secteurs environnemental, social, culturel et économique, et de la santé, dans la région de la rive est du lac Winnipeg. Le secrétariat WNO de Conservation Manitoba a offert un soutien en matière d'administration, de planification et de recherche à ses principaux membres, au WNO Council et au WNO Council of Chiefs.
- Le Ministère a surveillé l'aménagement de la ligne de transport et des routes associées au projet de Wuskwatim de Manitoba Hydro et il a collaboré avec le personnel de Manitoba Hydro pour aborder et atténuer les problèmes à mesure qu'ils apparaissaient. Il a offert une aide à la conception de mesures d'atténuation pour les caribous des bois qui vivent le long du parcours de la ligne de transport.
- Le Ministère a élaboré des stratégies d'aménagement des terres telles que la conception de pratiques et de plans forestiers pour assurer l'avenir du caribou des bois boréal, une espèce menacée au Manitoba. Certains animaux de divers parcours naturels sont munis de colliers GPS et de radiotéléphonie qui permettent aux biologistes de surveiller les déplacements des caribous et de définir ainsi les parcours naturels critiques. Les données servent à cerner les préférences en matière

d'habitat et à examiner les mécanismes de fluctuation de l'habitat en vue d'offrir des habitats pour l'avenir.

- Le Ministère a participé au Watchable Wildlife Working Group (groupe de travail sur l'observation de la faune) en vue d'aménager un parcours international d'observation d'oiseaux avec le Minnesota et des lieux d'observation au lac Whitewater, au marais Oak Hammock, au lac Proven, sur l'île Hecla, dans le parc provincial de la Vallée-de-la-Pembina et ailleurs.
- Le Ministère a coordonné les activités liées aux questions de foresterie durable, telles que l'approvisionnement en bois, la qualité de la fibre ligneuse, la gestion des forêts et le mode de tenue forestière. Il a également travaillé à rehausser les possibilités forestières dans le contexte de l'utilisation durable des fibres ligneuses et des pratiques de gestion forestière respectueuses de l'environnement.
- Le Ministère a continué de présider le comité de gestion de la zone de conservation de la prairie à herbes hautes.
- Le Ministère a acquis d'un particulier dans le sud-est du Manitoba une parcelle de terrain qui présente une importance écologique. Il s'agit du seul site au Manitoba où l'on trouve les trois pins indigènes de la province (pin gris, pin rouge, pin blanc). On a entrepris d'évaluer le site en vue de sa désignation comme une réserve écologique.
- La rivière Rouge a été officiellement acceptée à titre de membre du Réseau des rivières du patrimoine canadien au cours de l'été 2007 et on a commencé à préparer le deuxième rapport décennal sur le statut de rivière du patrimoine canadien de la rivière Bloodvein.

## 5. Réduction des déchets et substitution

Pour respecter l'esprit de la directive n° 5, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) encourager et promouvoir, au sein du Ministère et à l'extérieur, la conception et l'utilisation de produits de substitution pour remplacer des ressources rares lorsque de tels produits de substitution sont viables à la fois sur le plan économique et sur le plan environnemental;
- b) réduire, réutiliser, recycler et récupérer les produits dont le Ministère se sert dans ses activités quotidiennes et promouvoir l'application des 4 R dans la société en général.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a facilité le transfert du programme de gestion des pneus du Manitoba à Tire Stewardship Manitoba, un organisme piloté par l'industrie. Le nouvel organisme vise à assurer la viabilité environnementale et économique du programme manitobain de recyclage des pneus de rebut.
- En collaboration avec Manitoba vert, le Ministère poursuit ses efforts en vue de passer de la formule manitobaine de gestion des produits à un modèle de responsabilité réglementé mettant l'accent sur la réduction des déchets dans quatre catégories prioritaires : les pneus, les matériaux récupérés dans les boîtes bleues, les déchets ménagers dangereux et les déchets électroniques.
- Le Ministère a élaboré un programme régional de récupération d'environ 500 000 mètres cubes de bois accessible dans le parc provincial Whiteshell. Ayant fait l'objet d'un examen détaillé dans le cadre d'assemblées publiques, le programme a été mis en oeuvre pour réduire le risque de feu échappé. On a récupéré plus de 200 000 mètres cubes de bois sur une superficie de 2 000 hectares de terrains forestiers au cours de l'hiver.
- Le Ministère a continué de collaborer avec Manitoba vert pour finaliser et mettre en oeuvre de nouvelles exigences réglementaires qui ont été adoptées en vertu de la *Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets* et qui visent à traiter les flux de déchets prioritaires définis par le cadre stratégique Vert et prospère, y compris les produits d'emballage et de papier imprimé, les déchets ménagers dangereux et les équipements électriques et électroniques.

- Le Ministère a soutenu Resource Conservation Manitoba par le biais d'une subvention du Fonds de réduction des déchets et de prévention de la pollution afin que l'organisme offre des services de réduction des déchets, y compris un service de conférenciers en environnement, les activités de la Semaine de réduction des déchets, des ateliers et une formation sur le compostage et l'offre de services d'information environnementale.
- En vertu des programmes réglementaires établis dans le cadre de la *Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets*, 94 224 tonnes de matériaux ont été recyclées en 2007-2008 dont 10 933 tonnes de caoutchouc provenant de pneus de rebut, plus de 68 808 tonnes de produits d'emballage et de papier recueillis chez les particuliers et 14 483 tonnes de produits d'huile usagés. La quantité de matières recueillies dans le cadre des programmes ci-dessus s'est accrue de 3 681 tonnes par rapport à l'exercice précédent.

## 6. Recherche et innovation

Pour respecter l'esprit de la directive n° 6, le Ministère doit veiller à ce qui suit :

- a) encourager et appuyer la recherche, le développement, la mise en application et le partage des connaissances et des technologies qui contribuent à l'amélioration de l'économie, de l'environnement, de la santé et du bien-être social.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a poursuivi ses activités de recherche et de surveillance du caribou des bois afin d'alimenter une base de données régionales sur la distribution des populations et l'abondance relative des animaux. La protection législative provinciale et fédérale de cette espèce menacée exige que le personnel régional évalue les incidences potentielles de l'exploitation forestière, de l'exploitation minière, des aménagements hydroélectriques et d'autres aménagements industriels et récréatifs sur les populations de caribou. Le Manitoba a continué de collaborer étroitement avec l'industrie forestière, d'autres intervenants du secteur et des Premières nations en vue de protéger l'habitat du caribou des bois et de veiller à ce que leurs besoins vitaux soient satisfaits à long terme.
- Le projet de recherche Summerberry dans le delta du bras inférieur de la rivière Saskatchewan s'est poursuivi pour une deuxième campagne sur le terrain. Trois étudiants de troisième cycle et des assistants ont étudié les effets de la réglementation des eaux sur les rats musqués, la végétation et les oiseaux aquatiques dans six bassins choisis. Canards Illimités Canada, Conservation Manitoba et Manitoba Hydro offrent une aide financière et en nature au programme, qui a engagé également l'Université du Manitoba et l'université Iowa State.
- Le Ministère a recueilli des données sur la santé des forêts par le biais d'enquête sur la régénération, la croissance libre et la période de pré-récolte afin d'élaborer des directives de gestion et d'assurer le suivi des peuplements infectés de manière importante. Le Ministère a également mené des enquêtes, des tests d'efficacité et des recherches portant sur des maladies et des insectes importants, notamment la tordeuse des bourgeons de l'épinette, la maladie hollandaise de l'orme, la tordeuse de pin gris, le scolyte de l'orme, le faux-gui, la rouille-tumeur de l'Ouest, le pourridié agaric, le dendroctone de l'épinette, le dendroctone du mélèze et le charançon du collet du pin.
- Le *Programme d'amélioration génétique des arbres* a fourni une source de semences génétiquement améliorées pour le reboisement et la conservation des ressources génétiques des forêts. Le Programme comprend huit coopératives qui associent le gouvernement et l'industrie, soit Tolko Manitoba, Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company et Tembec, plus six programmes provinciaux. Tous les travaux d'entretien et d'évaluation des tests familiaux et de gestion des vergers à graines ont été achevés par le personnel du Programme qui assure la gestion et la direction technique.
- Le projet de recherche sur l'enlèvement rapide des arbres touchés par la maladie hollandaise de l'orme de l'Université du Manitoba a procédé à une deuxième campagne sur le terrain en 2007-2008. Les objectifs du projet sont l'exploration des avantages potentiels de l'enlèvement précoce des ormes malades pour la gestion de la maladie et la découverte d'une solution de recharge plus écologique

au pesticide présentement utilisé pour lutter contre le scolyte de l'orme. Le projet est une collaboration de la Ville de Winnipeg, de la Coalition to Save the Elms, de Conservation Manitoba et de l'Université du Manitoba.

- Le Ministère a participé à un groupe de travail fédéral-provincial-territorial (FPT) sur la biodiversité qui a mis en oeuvre des programmes de bioinformatique, a soumis des rapports sur l'état et les tendances de la biodiversité, a surveillé les espèces étrangères envahissantes et a favorisé la citoyenneté écologique. Le Ministère a organisé et a coprésenté la seizième réunion annuelle du Groupe de travail FPT sur la biodiversité, qui a eu lieu à Winnipeg du 16 au 18 avril 2007.
- Le Ministère a procédé à deux enquêtes sur les ours polaires côtiers. Une enquête menée en juillet après la fonte de la plus grande partie de la glace dans la baie d'Hudson a dénombré 133 ours polaires, tandis que l'enquête de septembre en a dénombré 138. Le personnel a également aidé le personnel du Service canadien de la faune à procéder à une enquête expérimentale pour évaluer la population des ours polaires de la baie d'Hudson occidentale.
- Au cours de l'hiver 2006-2007, on a signalé et bagué un nombre accru de chouettes lapones dans les forêts boréales du sud-est du Manitoba. On a observé 12 couples reproducteurs pendant la période de nidification de 2007 et une population accrue de leur proie principale, le campagnol des prés. La chouette lapone est réceptive à l'égard du virus du Nil occidental et des efforts continus de surveillance offrent des données de base pour l'évaluation des incidences potentielles de cette maladie.
- Les citoyens de la province ont continué d'aider le Ministère à mieux comprendre la distribution, l'abondance relative et la conservation des libellules dans la province.

## **Objectifs d'approvisionnement durable**

### **1. Éducation, formation et sensibilisation**

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 1, le Ministère doit faire en sorte qu'une culture favorable aux pratiques d'approvisionnement durable existe au sein de l'organisation :

- en sensibilisant davantage les ministères, les employés et les vendeurs aux avantages de l'approvisionnement durable;
- en améliorant les connaissances et les compétences des acheteurs et des utilisateurs.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a continué de mettre l'accent sur les besoins d'éducation et de formation en matière d'approvisionnement et il a apporté son soutien à l'élaboration de listes de produits et services à privilégier destinées aux membres du personnel.
- Le Ministère a également continué d'adapter ses manuels et procédures, notamment le manuel des contrats (*Contract Manual*). Le personnel du Ministère chargé de l'approvisionnement doit veiller au respect des principes de durabilité dans toutes les demandes d'achats.
- Le Ministère a échangé des renseignements sur l'approvisionnement durable et la politique relative aux bâtiments écologiques avec son personnel, les vendeurs et les entrepreneurs.

### **2. Prévention de la pollution et protection de la santé**

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 2, le Ministère doit protéger la santé et l'environnement de la population manitobaine contre les effets négatifs possibles de ses activités et il doit offrir un milieu de travail sain et sans danger :

- en réduisant l'achat et l'utilisation de substances toxiques;
- en réduisant la quantité de déchets solides envoyés à la décharge et provenant d'installations que le gouvernement manitobain possède ou loue et qui sont occupées par le Ministère.

**Exemples d'activité :**

- Le Ministère a veillé à ce que les contrats conclus avec des entreprises de nettoyage et d'entretien indiquent que les substances toxiques doivent être remplacées par des produits écologiques.
- Le Ministère a appliqué les normes de gestion et de recyclage des déchets dans tous les bâtiments et locaux dont il est propriétaire. Tous les bureaux doivent utiliser du papier recyclé et des cartouches de toner remises à neuf. Lorsque le volume s'y prête, ils doivent aussi se servir de photocopieuses avec fonction recto-verso automatique.
- Le Ministère a continué de mettre à jour la formation de l'équipe d'intervention d'urgence et du personnel régional en offrant les cours suivants : commandement des interventions; niveaux de sensibilisation, de fonctionnement et de technicien des interventions en cas d'incident mettant en cause des matières dangereuses; niveaux de base, intermédiaire et avancé des interventions en cas d'incident chimique, biologique, radiologique ou nucléaire (CBRN); cours de mise à jour sur la surveillance de l'équipement; formation spécialisée pour les interventions et la récupération en cas de déversement environnemental. Les membres du personnel d'intervention pouvaient également profiter de diverses autres mesures de formation pour rehausser leurs compétences.

**3. Réduction des émissions de combustibles fossiles**

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 3, le Ministère doit réduire les émissions de combustibles fossiles découlant de ses activités :

- a) en réduisant à la fois la consommation et les émissions de carburants pour véhicules;
- b) en augmentant l'utilisation de carburants mélangés à de l'éthanol et en recourant à de nouvelles sources d'énergie pour remplacer les combustibles traditionnels.

**Exemples d'activité :**

- Le Ministère a continué d'encourager le recours à un carburant à l'éthanol; chaque fois que c'était possible.
- Le Ministère a acquis 4 véhicules hybrides pour accroître son parc de véhicules à B. Une carte destinée aux gestionnaires et aux conducteurs indique les postes d'approvisionnement en éthanol pour les véhicules du Ministère.

**4. Conservation des ressources**

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 4, le Ministère doit réduire l'utilisation et la consommation des ressources d'une manière durable et favorable à l'environnement :

- a) en réduisant la consommation totale annuelle de services publics comme le gaz naturel, l'électricité, le propane, le mazout et l'eau dans tous les bâtiments et locaux que le gouvernement du Manitoba possède ou loue et qui sont occupés par le Ministère;
- b) dans le contexte de l'utilisation limitée des ressources, en augmentant la proportion de produits et de services à privilégier dont le Ministère se sert.

**Exemples d'activité :**

- Le Ministère a poursuivi ses visites d'inspection dans les bâtiments dont il est propriétaire ainsi que l'élaboration d'exigences minimales réalistes en vue de travaux de modernisation écoénergétique. Des clauses standard tenant compte de l'approvisionnement durable figurent sur toutes les demandes d'achat, comme le prévoit le manuel des contrats (*Contract Manual*) du Ministère.
- Le Ministère a prolongé la durée de vie de l'infrastructure des parcs provinciaux et accru les possibilités de loisirs en améliorant les installations des parcs et en aménageant de nouvelles installations. Il a amélioré la protection de l'environnement dans les parcs provinciaux en construisant et en installant des équipements appropriés pour l'épuration des eaux, le traitement des eaux d'égouts et l'élimination des déchets.

## 5. Développement économique communautaire

Pour respecter l'esprit de l'objectif n° 5, le Ministère doit veiller à ce que ses pratiques d'approvisionnement favorisent et appuient le développement économique communautaire :

- a) en augmentant la participation des populations et des fournisseurs autochtones pour qu'ils répondent aux besoins du Ministère en matière de biens et de services;
- b) en contribuant au développement et à l'essor des industries environnementales locales et à l'accroissement des débouchés commerciaux des produits et services à privilégier;
- c) en augmentant la participation des petites entreprises, des entreprises communautaires et des coopératives à l'approvisionnement du Ministère.

Exemples d'activité :

- Le Ministère a poursuivi ses efforts en vue de s'approvisionner davantage auprès des Autochtones et des administrations locales, et d'appuyer ainsi le développement économique communautaire dans le contexte de la politique de marchés publics du gouvernement.
- Le Ministère a participé à l'obtention d'un nouveau financement fédéral-provincial-territorial pour soutenir FPInnovations – Forintek. Cette entreprise emploie des conseillers en diversification et en compétitivité industrielle. FPInnovations a créé un nouveau poste d'agent de liaison afin de faciliter le transfert de connaissances en matière de récolte et de transport du bois, de construction des chemins forestiers et de sylviculture.
- Le Ministère a continué d'offrir son programme de lots pour chalets, qui permet aux Manitobains et aux Manitobaines d'obtenir un lot pour construire un chalet. Les nouvelles constructions rehaussent la qualité de vie des citoyens en leur offrant la possibilité de profiter de la beauté naturelle de la province, tout en offrant des avantages économiques aux collectivités et municipalités environnantes. Les avantages proviennent de la construction initiale des éléments d'infrastructure, de la construction des chalets, ainsi que des dépenses locales et des taxes et impôts payés de manière continue.
- Le personnel régional a continué de collaborer avec la Première nation Mathias Colomb afin d'évaluer les retombées potentielles sur l'économie et l'emploi de diverses initiatives de gestion forestière communautaire.

## Revenue and Expenditure Summaries

**Table RE.1**  
**Reconciliation Statement**

DETAILS	2007/08 ESTIMATES
2007/08 MAIN ESTIMATES	\$119,416.5
2007/08 ESTIMATE	\$119,416.5

**Table RE.2**  
**Revenue Summary by Source**

For the year ended March 31, 2008 with comparative figures for the previous year

Actual 2006-07	Increase (Decrease)	Source	Actual 2007-08	Estimate 2007-08	Variance 2007-08	Expl. No.
<b>OTHER REVENUE:</b>						
0.0	0.0	Clean Environment Commission	0.0	0.0	0.0	
0.0	288.5	Cost Recovery	288.5	3,570.4	(3,281.9)	1.
550.5	617.9	Cottaging Initiative	617.9	605.2	12.7	
8,278.6	6,821.9	Environment Fees and Sundry	6,821.9	8,666.9	(1,845.0)	2.
2,101.9	1,914.9	Forestry Fees and Sundry	1,914.9	1,826.6	88.3	
4,128.2	4,020.2	Land Information Sales and Fees	4,020.2	3,947.3	72.9	
10,708.4	10,895.6	Licence Sales by Vendors	10,895.6	10,974.7	(79.1)	
		Parks Fees				
		Regional Operations Fees and Cost				
5,977.0	6,741.5	Recovery	6,741.5	4,828.0	1,913.5	3.
357.1	478.6	Wildlife Sundry	478.6	640.0	(161.4)	
319.0	388.4	Sundry	388.4	317.3	71.1	
<b>32,420.7</b>	<b>32,167.5</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>32,167.5</b>	<b>35,376.4</b>	<b>(3,208.9)</b>	
<b>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:</b>						
151.0	151.0	(a) Migratory Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Agreement	151.0	151.0	0.0	
0.0	1,685.8	(b) Softwood Lumber Agreement	1,685.8	1,900.0	(214.2)	
<b>151.0</b>	<b>1,836.8</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,836.8</b>	<b>2,051.0</b>	<b>(214.2)</b>	
<b>32,571.7</b>	<b>34,004.3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>34,004.3</b>	<b>37,427.4</b>	<b>(3,423.1)</b>	
10.2	59.7	Sale of Government Assets	59.7	0.0	59.7	

**Explanation**

**Number:**

1. Revenue recognition was deferred, as fewer lots were completed to lock up stage.
2. Lower forestry revenue due to lower harvesting and reduced rates as a result of poor market conditions and Whiteshell forest destruction by heavy windstorms in June.
3. Increased fire suppression cost recovery for out of province fire fighting activity.

**Table RE.3**  
**Expenditure Summary**

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2008 with comparative figures for the previous year.

Estimate 2007/08	Appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Actual 2006/07	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
12-1 Administration and Finance					
31.0	(a) Minister's Salary	42.1	30.3	11.8	
	(b) Executive Support				
623.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	578.1	814.8	(236.7)	
185.6	Other Expenditures	112.6	4.4	(15.0)	
	(c) Corporate Services				
1,141.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	939.7	906.2	33.5	
1,504.3	Other Expenditures	1,507.5	1,460.3	47.2	
	(d) Financial Services				
1,302.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,246.3	1,368.9	(122.6)	
396.6	Other Expenditures	422.2	355.5	66.7	
	(e) Human Resource Services				
1,307.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,028.7	1,077.3	(48.6)	
163.6	Other Expenditures	160.1	150.4	9.7	
	(f) Information Technology Services				
1,193.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,246.8	1,177.1	69.7	
118.3	Other Expenditures	86.5	95.1	(8.6)	
	(g) Clean Environment Commission				
267.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	276.1	276.9	(0.8)	
342.7	Other Expenditures	603.1	269.9	333.2	
8,577.6	Total 12-1	8,249.8	8,110.3	139.5	
12-2 Conservation Support Services					
	(a) Computer Graphics				
364.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	405.2	366.3	38.9	
33.7	Other Expenditures	32.7	29.5	3.2	
	(b) Survey Services				
1,518.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,341.4	1,278.1	63.3	
456.5	Other Expenditures	415.6	420.1	(4.5)	
(1,570.7)	Less: Recoveries from other appropriations	(1,459.6)	(1,591.6)	132.0	
	(c) Distribution Centre				
333.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	376.9	350.4	26.5	
338.0	Other Expenditures	295.1	348.0	(52.9)	
(50.0)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	(31.4)	(65.9)	34.5	
387.9	(d) Seasonal Support	361.3	339.1	22.2	
1,810.6	Total 12-2	1,737.2	1,474.0	263.2	
12-3 Regional Operations					
	(a) Regional Support Services				
1,897.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,904.4	1,900.5	3.9	
1,522.8	Other Expenditures	1,563.7	851.2	712.5	
240.6	Problem Wildlife Control	223.1	334.1	(111.0)	
	(b) Northwest Region				
2,169.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,262.8	2,020.7	242.1	
847.2	Other Expenditures	844.5	2,823.9	(1,979.4)	1.
	(c) Northeast Region				
2,716.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,608.4	2,449.4	159.0	
1,117.3	Other Expenditures	1,226.8	1,042.8	184.0	
	(d) Central Region				

Estimate 2007/08	Appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Actual 2006/07	Increase (Decrease)
6,087.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,973.7	5,661.7	312.0
2,072.5	Other Expenditures	2,006.2	2,118.5	(112.3)
(e) Eastern Region				
3,542.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,676.0	3,409.4	266.6
955.1	Other Expenditures	1,039.4	904.4	135.0
(f) Western Region				
4,705.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,630.6	4,459.7	170.9
1,504.9	Other Expenditures	1,489.4	1,485.2	4.2
(g) Park Operations and Maintenance				
12,759.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	13,163.7	12,524.3	639.4
5,893.5	Other Expenditures	6,017.3	5,572.5	444.8
(445.7)	Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(439.8)	(468.9)	29.1
(h) Fire and Emergency Response Program				
6,410.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	6,275.3	5,790.5	484.8
9,339.3	Other Expenditures	9,615.1	9,509.2	105.9
(500.0)	Less: Recoverable from Emergency Expenditures	(432.7)	0.0	(432.7)
(i) Environmental Services				
(1) Livestock Operations				
462.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	421.2	446.1	(24.9)
989.6	Other Expenditures	372.5	338.0	34.5
(2) Environmental Operations				
711.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	599.2	439.5	159.7
296.9	Other Expenditures	145.8	138.9	6.9
65,295.5	Total 12-3	65,186.6	63,751.6	1,435.0
12-4 Conservation Programs				
(a) Divisional Administration				
179.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	152.0	278.1	(126.1)
504.3	Other Expenditures	430.7	354.2	76.5
683.7	Total 12-4A	582.7	632.3	(49.6)
(b) Wildlife Enhancement Initiative				
225.0	Other Expenditures	223.7	217.8	5.9
225.0	Total 12-4B	223.7	217.8	5.9
(c) Parks and Natural Areas				
1,746.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,899.3	1,866.6	32.7
1,606.2	Other Expenditures	1,948.0	1,930.6	17.4
263.7	Grant Assistance	263.7	263.7	0.0
3,616.6	Total 12-4C	4,111.0	4,060.9	50.1
(d) Forestry				
4,145.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,758.8	4,792.6	(33.8)
6,203.2	Other Expenditures	4,953.6	4,736.7	216.9
23.4	Grant Assistance	23.4	23.4	0.0
1,355.3	Forest Regeneration Stock	1,352.6	1,237.9	114.7
(1,324.5)	Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,274.5)	(1,236.1)	(38.4)
10,403.1	Total 12-4D	9,813.9	9,554.5	259.4
(e) Habitat Enhancement Fund				
50.0	Other Expenditures	50.0	50.0	0.0
50.0	Total 12-4E	50.0	50.0	0.0
(f) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection				
2,032.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,280.1	2,118.1	162.0
1,277.2	Other Expenditures	1,106.8	1,011.7	95.1

Estimate 2007/08	Appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Actual 2006/07	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
945.9	Grant Assistance	936.8	943.9	(7.1)	
352.2	Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	315.4	346.4	(31.0)	
4,608.0	Total 12-4F	4,639.1	4,420.1	219.0	
250.0	(g) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund	164.0	155.7	8.3	
250.0	Total 12-4G	164.0	155.7	8.3	
	(h) Lands and Geomatics				
1,443.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,468.3	1,393.4	74.9	
3,890.2	Other Expenditures	3,347.0	2,707.6	639.4	2.
(23.7)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	0.0	0.0	0.0	
5,309.8	Total 12-4H	4,815.3	4,101.0	714.3	
25,146.2	Total 12-4	24,399.7	23,192.3	1,207.4	
	12-5 Environmental Stewardship				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
180.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	170.7	164.2	6.5	
65.1	Other Expenditures	40.4	254.5	(214.1)	
	(b) Sustainable Resource Management				
1,044.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	982.9	903.9	79.0	
212.6	Other Expenditures	183.2	122.6	60.6	
134.6	Grant Assistance	127.4	129.1	(1.7)	
	(c) Corporate Crown Land Policy Unit				
192.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	129.2	0.0	129.2	
30.0	Other Expenditures	13.8	0.0	13.8	
	(d) Environmental Assessment and Licensing				
1,289.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,199.1	1,070.5	128.6	
275.9	Other Expenditures	236.0	255.4	(19.4)	
	(e) Aboriginal Relations				
409.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	388.3	375.6	12.7	
188.3	Other Expenditures	179.3	182.0	(2.7)	
250.0	Northern Initiatives	368.1	246.0	122.1	
1,197.3	(f) Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin	898.0	885.4	12.6	
	(g) Protected Areas				
211.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	228.0	243.2	(15.2)	
115.5	Other Expenditures	53.9	51.2	2.7	
300.0	Grant Assistance	300.0	200.0	100.0	
	(h) Pollution Prevention				
313.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	366.0	335.8	30.2	
93.9	Other Expenditures	439.4	92.2	347.2	
	(i) Air Quality				
281.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	240.0	267.0	(27.0)	
69.5	Other Expenditures	57.5	60.9	(3.4)	
6,855.3	Total 12-5	6,601.2	5,839.5	761.7	
1,195.9	12-6 International Institute for Sustainable Development	1,195.9	1,195.9	0.0	
1,195.9	Total 12-6	1,195.9	1,195.9	0.0	

Estimate 2007/08	Appropriation	Actual 2007/08	Actual 2006/07	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
<b>12-7 Minor Capital Projects</b>					
430.4 (a) Equipment		328.3	357.1	(28.8)	
120.0 (b) Critical Heritage Marshes		120.0	119.8	.2	
2,369.3 (c) Park Facilities		2,016.2	2,389.7	(373.5)	3.
750.0 (d) Cottaging and Camping Initiatives		762.9	689.7	73.2	
<b>3,669.7 Total 12-7</b>		<b>3,227.4</b>	<b>3,556.3</b>	<b>(328.9)</b>	
<b>12-8 Costs Related to Capital Assets</b>					
(a) Desktop Services					
130.6 (1) Amortization Expense		130.5	130.5	0.0	
218.6 (2) Enterprise Software Licenses		218.6	217.8	.8	
(b) General Assets					
1,381.2 (1) Amortization Expense		1,389.2	1,246.9	142.3	
524.3 (2) Interest Expense		502.8	485.6	17.2	
(c) Infrastructure Assets					
2,202.2 (1) Amortization Expense		2,025.3	1,967.1	58.2	
2,408.8 (2) Interest Expense		2,297.8	1,925.9	371.9	4.
<b>6,865.7 Total 12-8</b>		<b>6,564.2</b>	<b>5,973.8</b>	<b>590.4</b>	
<b>119,416.5 TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>117,162.0</b>	<b>113,093.7</b>	<b>4,068.3</b>	
<b>B.12 Capital Investment</b>					
1,066.4 (a) General Assets					
(b) Infrastructure Assets					
5,345.2 (1) Parks Infrastructure Projects		4,797.3	3,873.7	923.6	6.
1,540.5 (2) Camping Improvements		1,162.1	737.1	425.0	7.
2,825.3 (3) Cottage Lots Development		3,557.5	2,772.8	784.7	8.
<b>9,711.0 TOTAL B.12 CAPITAL INVESTMENT</b>		<b>10,641.9</b>	<b>9,271.6</b>	<b>1,370.3</b>	

#### Expenditure Summary Explanations

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2008 with comparative figures for the previous year

1. The Department's decrease of (\$1,979.4) in 2007/08 expenditures was due to Grand Rapids/Forebay survey costs incurred in 2006/07 for settlement agreements with four communities that were impacted through the Grand Rapid hydro-electric project (1960s).
2. The Department's increase of \$639.4 in 2007/08 expenditures was mainly due to disposal of the obsolete Crown Land Registry System.
3. The Department's decrease of (\$373.5) in 2007/08 expenditures was due to project delays and deferrals to 2008/09.
4. The Department's increase of \$371.9 in 2007/08 interest expense was mainly due to completion of the Hecla Lagoon upgrade, increased road construction for cottage lots, and increased camping initiative projects.
5. The Department's decrease in General Asset expenditures in 2007/08 was mainly due to completion of the Polar Bear Holding Facility in 2006/07.
6. The Department's increase in Parks Infrastructure Project expenditures in 2007/08 was primarily due to West Hawk Lagoon and Big Whiteshell Lagoon upgrades in 2007/08.
7. The Department's increase in Camping Improvements in 2007/08 was mainly due to the construction of Bird's Hill campground shower.
8. The Department's increase in Cottage Lot Development expenditures in 2007/08 was mainly due to accelerating road construction in 2007/08 in order to ensure timely access to subdivisions and to expedite time to lock up stage.

**Table RE.4****Five Year Expenditure and Staffing Summary by Appropriation**

For year ending March 31, 2004 – March 31, 2008

	ACTUALS/*ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE									
	2003/2004		2004/2005		2005/2006		2006/2007		2007/2008	
	FTEs	\$ (000)	FTEs	\$ (000)	FTEs	\$ (000)	FTEs	\$ (000)	FTEs	\$ (000)
Administration and Finance	84.33	7,600.2	83.33	7,462.9	85.33	7,304.6	85.33	8,110.3	86.33	8,249.9
Conservation Support Services	48.00	1,631.4	45.00	1,202.7	44.00	1,248.8	40.00	1,474.0	39.50	1,737.2
Regional Operations	686.66	56,008.2	669.16	56,396.5	660.57	59,019.2	688.57	63,751.6	700.47	65,186.6
Conservation Programs	168.85	21,036.5	156.85	20,316.2	154.35	21,494.5	141.35	23,192.3	140.89	24,399.7
Environmental Stewardship	63.00	5,011.1	58.00	5,681.6	57.00	5,725.3	54.00	5,839.5	58.00	6,601.2
International Institute for Sustainable Development		1,104.4		1,031.3		1,145.9		1,195.9		1,195.9
Minor Capital Projects		2,877.9		4,776.9		3,620.8		3,556.3		3,227.4
Costs Related to Capital Assets		5,435.1		5,241.5		5,441.0		5,973.8		6,564.2
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>1,050.84</b>	<b>100,704.8</b>	<b>1,012.34</b>	<b>102,109.6</b>	<b>1,001.25</b>	<b>105,000.1</b>	<b>1,009.25</b>	<b>113,093.7</b>	<b>1,025.19</b>	<b>117,162.1</b>

\*Adjusted figures reflect historical date on a comparable basis in those appropriations affected by re-organization, during the years under review.

## Conservation – Performance Reporting Table

The following section provides information on key performance measures for the department for the 2007-08 reporting year. This is the third year in which all Government of Manitoba departments have included a Performance Measurement section, in a standardized format, in their Annual Reports.

Performance indicators in departmental Annual Reports are intended to complement financial results and provide Manitobans with meaningful and useful information about government activities, and their impact on the province and its citizens.

For more information on performance reporting and the Manitoba government, visit [www.manitoba.ca/mbperformance](http://www.manitoba.ca/mbperformance)

Your comments on performance measures are valuable to us. You can send comments or questions to [mbperformance@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mbperformance@gov.mb.ca).

<b>What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)</b>	<b>Why is it important to measure this? (B)</b>	<b>Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)</b>	<b>What is the 2007/2008 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)</b>	<b>What is the trend over time? (E)</b>	<b>Comments/recent actions/report links (F)</b>
Our progress towards expanding our network of protected areas, by measuring Hectares of protected land in Manitoba	Protected areas are important because they help ensure conservation of biodiversity, maintain natural cycles, provide pristine areas and preserve land for Aboriginal people to maintain their traditional activities. Measuring the growth in protected areas will tell us how well we are meeting our goal for protected lands that represent the biodiversity in each of Manitoba's natural regions.	The baseline measure for this is 350,000 hectares in 1990, when the Protected Areas Initiative began.	Currently, 5.4 million hectares or 8.4% of Manitoba is protected, including two national parks, 21 ecological reserves, all or parts of 44 provincial parks and interim protected park reserves, all or parts of 46 wildlife management areas, two areas designated under <i>The Forest Act</i> , and various parcels of private land owned by a conservation agency.	Since 1990, when the Protected Areas Initiative began, the area of protected lands has increased from 350,000 hectares to 5,450,000 hectares in 2008.	For further information on Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative, please see page 133 of the report. East Paint Lake Park Reserve was converted to Paint Lake Provincial Park in 2008, reducing the total hectares of protected lands.

<b>What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)</b>	<b>Why is it important to measure this? (B)</b>	<b>Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)</b>
<p>The change in availability of wilderness-experience recreation opportunities for Manitobans by measuring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• number of improved campsites made available in the year</li> <li>• number of cottage lots made available in the year</li> </ul>	<p>It is important to measure the expansion of available wilderness recreation opportunities, represented here by new campsites and new cottage lots, because the ability to enjoy wilderness recreation is important to Manitobans. For many, the relative affordability of cottage properties is a major reason why Manitoba remains attractive as a place to live.</p> <p>In addition, Manitobans benefit from enhanced economic development opportunities in areas with increasing cottage and camping visitors, including tourist visits. For Manitobans, increased wilderness recreation also contributes to quality of life and healthy living, as they participate in hiking, cycling, paddling and swimming that usually go along with spending time in these areas.</p>	<p>The baseline measure for this is 2004/05. In 2004/05, there were 225 improved campsites made available to Manitobans. In 2004/05, 576 cottage lots were made available to Manitobans as part of the provincial commitment for 1,000 new cottage lots.</p>

<i>ng</i>	<b><i>What is the 2007/2008 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)</i></b>	<b><i>What is the trend over time? (E)</i></b>	<b><i>Comments/ recent actions/ report links (F)</i></b>
re re ge ans cial 0	<p>In 2007/08, there were 23 improved campsites, 62 new campsites, 4 new yurts and 2 new cabins, for a total of 91 improvements within Manitoba Provincial Parks</p> <p>In 2007/08, 495 cottage lots were made available.</p>	<p>The Province has made significant commitments with respect to increasing camping and cottaging opportunities for Manitobans.</p> <p>From 2004/05 through 2007/08, a total of 672 camping improvements were implemented.</p>	For further information on recreational opportunities for Manitobans, please see pages 66 of the report

<b>What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)</b>	<b>Why is it important to measure this? (B)</b>	<b>Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)</b>	<b>What is the 2007/2008 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)</b>	<b>What is the trend over time? (E)</b>	<b>Comments/recent actions/report links (F)</b>
<p>Safety and security in provincial parks by measuring violations of <i>The Provincial Parks Act</i> as a percentage of camping nights. (Excludes violations related to parking or park passes.)</p>	<p>Users of provincial parks have an expectation that there will be a safe and secure environment. It is important to maintain such an environment so that provincial parks can be used and enjoyed by all.</p> <p><i>The Provincial Parks Act</i> violations as a percent of camping nights is a measure that reflects the safety and security threats overall in parks as a percent of indirectly comparative activity in campgrounds.</p>	<p>The baseline measure for this is 615 total violations recorded in 2000/01, representing 0.30% of 206,838 camping nights.</p>	<p>There were 452 total violations recorded in 2007/08, representing 0.20% of 226,107 camping nights.</p>	<p>The number of violations has decreased over the past 8 years from a high of 0.30% in 2000/01 to 0.20% in 2007/08. Although a large number of camping nights are incident-free, the measure does not indicate the severity of each event. The Department will be reporting on levels of severity and customer satisfaction in future.</p>	<p>For further information on safety and security in parks, please see pages 28 of the report.</p>

<b>What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)</b>	<b>Why is it important to measure this? (B)</b>	<b>Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)</b>	<b>What is the 2007/2008 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)</b>	<b>What is the trend over time? (E)</b>	<b>Comments/recent actions/ report links (F)</b>
<p>How well people and wildlife are co-existing in the province, by measuring the number of "problem wildlife" incidents, by type of animal.</p>	<p>A focus on problem wildlife management is important because problem wildlife can impact life safety, private property and public infrastructure.</p>	<p>The baseline measure for this is 2000/01, where a total of 3,205 reports of problem wildlife were received, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Bear - 1,311</li> <li>• Polar Bear - 169</li> <li>• Beaver - 303</li> <li>• Big Game - 762</li> <li>• Wolf - 179</li> <li>• Migratory Birds - 481</li> </ul>	<p>In 2007/08, there were a total of 2,580 problem wildlife reports, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Bear - 1,398</li> <li>• Polar Bear - 246</li> <li>• Beaver - 168</li> <li>• Big Game - 219</li> <li>• Wolf - 231</li> <li>• Migratory Birds - 318</li> </ul>	<p>The trend over major wildlife categories has been fairly stable over the past eight years, with the exception of raccoon conflicts in urban areas like Winnipeg where the numbers have steadily increased. The measure is a reflection of people and wildlife sharing the outdoors, particularly urban environments. Variances can be based on environmental or weather conditions and the Department's and public's reaction to incidents. In some situations, humans contribute to the conflict by deliberately feeding wildlife like deer.</p>	<p>In May, 2006 the Bear Smart initiative was launched, and includes: roadside signs, brochures and fact sheets, an information campaign and free community workshops to help to safeguard humans, minimize property, crop and livestock damage, and maintain a healthy bear population. The number of bear complaints in the reporting year was less than the 13-year average. The department has entered into agreements with Manitoba Trappers</p>

<b>What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)</b>	<b>Why is it important to measure this? (B)</b>	<b>Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)</b>	<b>What is the 2007/2008 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)</b>	<b>What is the trend over time? (E)</b>	<b>Comments/recent actions/ report links (F)</b>
					Association to deliver problem predator removal services. Other programs include a beaver management program to reduce losses resulting from beaver activity and the provision of fences to reduce chronic problem sites for elk, deer and wild turkey damages. Deer management in urban areas like Winnipeg and other centers has become a significant concern, as has wildlife-vehicle collisions. Web-sites have been developed to inform the

<i>What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)</i>	<i>Why is it important to measure this? (B)</i>	<i>Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)</i>	<i>What is the 2007/2008 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)</i>	<i>What is the trend over time? (E)</i>	<i>Comments/ recent actions/ report links (F)</i>
					<p>public on how to live with coyotes, deer, raccoons, and Canada geese.</p> <p>For further information on the Problem Wildlife Program, please see pages 90 of the report.</p>

<b>What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)</b>	<b>Why is it important to measure this? (B)</b>	<b>Where are we starting from (baseline measurement)? (C)</b>	<b>What is the 2007/2008 result (current year) or most recent available data? (D)</b>	<b>What is the trend over time? (E)</b>	<b>Comments/ recent actions/ report links (F)</b>
<p>Security of communities and of forestry-related economic development in high priority forested areas, by measuring hectares of forest burned in "Red Zone" areas as a percentage of total hectares burned in the province (or as per cent of Red Zone itself).</p> <p>"Red Zone" is highest priority forest zone.</p>	<p>Protection of people, property and the surrounding forested areas helps contribute to viable communities in these areas that are primarily in the North.</p>	<p>The baseline measure for this is 2000/01, when 0.23% of the highest priority forest protection zone (Red Zone) was burned.</p>	<p>In 2007/08, 0.066% of the highest priority forest protection zone (Red Zone) was burned.</p>	<p>There is no clear directional trend for this measure because risk varies widely from year to year.</p> <p>The risk of forest fire varies from year to year, primarily due to weather conditions. Although the primary original causes of forest fires include human activities and lightning strikes, the severity and impact of forest fires is mainly dependent on how wet or dry the conditions are at the time.</p> <p>The Department uses an Initial Attack Preparedness process to prioritize early strikes on the most vulnerable and high priority areas, in order to limit the impact as much as possible.</p>	<p>For further information on the Fire Program, please see pages 47 of the report.</p>

## Conservation — Tableau d'information sur le rendement

La section suivante offre des renseignements sur les principaux indicateurs de mesure du rendement du Ministère pour l'année de rapport 2007-2008. Pour la troisième année consécutive, tous les ministères du gouvernement manitobain ont inclus une section d'information sur le rendement, dans un format normalisé, dans leurs rapports annuels.

Les indicateurs de rendement qui figurent dans les rapports annuels des ministères ont pour objectif de fournir à la population du Manitoba, en complément des résultats financiers, des renseignements pertinents et utiles sur les activités du gouvernement et sur leurs incidences sur la province et ses citoyens.

Pour plus d'information sur les rapports de rendement du gouvernement manitobain, visitez le site [www.manitoba.ca/performance](http://www.manitoba.ca/performance).

Vos commentaires sur la mesure du rendement nous sont précieux. Veuillez faire parvenir vos commentaires et vos questions par courriel à l'adresse [mbperformance@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mbperformance@gov.mb.ca).

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
Nos progrès dans l'agrandissement de notre réseau de zones protégées, en calculant le nombre d'hectares de terres protégées au Manitoba.	Les zones protégées sont importantes parce qu'elles aident à assurer la conservation de la biodiversité, à maintenir les cycles naturels, à conserver des régions vierges et à préserver des terres pour que les Autochtones puissent poursuivre leurs activités traditionnelles. En mesurant l'extension des zones protégées, nous pouvons savoir	Pour cet indicateur, le point de référence est le suivant : 350 000 hectares en 1990, lors du lancement de l'Initiative des zones protégées.	À l'heure actuelle, 5,4 millions d'hectares (8,4 % de la superficie du Manitoba) sont protégés. Cette superficie comprend 2 parcs nationaux, 21 réserves écologiques, la totalité ou des sections de 44 parcs provinciaux et réserves destinées à la création de parcs protégés temporairement, la totalité ou des sections de 46 zones de gestion de la faune,	Au début de l'Initiative des zones protégées en 1990, la superficie des terres protégées était de 350 000 hectares. En 2008, elle était de 5 450 000 hectares.	Pour plus d'information sur l'Initiative des zones protégées du Manitoba, veuillez vous référer à la page 133 du rapport.  La réserve de East Paint Lake a été convertie au parc provincial Paint Lake, ce qui a réduit la superficie totale des zones protégées.

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
	si nous atteignons nos objectifs relativement aux terres protégées qui représentent la biodiversité dans chacune des régions naturelles du Manitoba.		2 zones désignées en vertu de la <i>Loi sur les forêts</i> et diverses parcelles de terres privées qui appartiennent à un organisme de conservation.		

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
<p>La modification des possibilités de loisirs dans un milieu sauvage pour la population manitobaine, en calculant ce qui suit : le nombre d'emplacements de camping améliorés offerts dans l'année et le nombre de nouveaux lots pour chalets offerts au cours de l'année.</p>	<p>Il convient de mesurer l'augmentation des possibilités de loisirs en milieu sauvage, représentées ici par de nouveaux emplacements de camping et de nouveaux lots pour chalets, parce que la capacité de pratiquer des loisirs en milieu sauvage est importante pour la population manitobaine. Pour beaucoup, l'abordabilité relative des terrains pour chalets est une raison majeure pour laquelle le Manitoba demeure un lieu de résidence attrayant.</p> <p>De plus, la population de la province bénéficie de débouchés économiques accrus dans les régions où augmente la fréquentation des</p>	<p>Pour cet indicateur, le point de référence est l'année 2004-2005.</p> <p>En 2004-2005, 225 emplacements de camping améliorés ont été mis à la disposition du public.</p> <p>En 2004-2005, 576 nouveaux lots pour chalets ont été proposés à la population manitobaine dans le cadre de l'engagement du gouvernement provincial en faveur de la création de 1 000 nouveaux lots.</p>	<p>En 2007-2008, 23 emplacements de camping améliorés, 62 nouveaux emplacements de camping, 4 nouvelles yourtes et 2 nouvelles cabines de touristes ont été mis à la disposition du public, pour un total de 91 améliorations apportées aux parcs provinciaux du Manitoba.</p> <p>En 2007-2008, 495 lots pour chalets ont été mis à la disposition du public.</p>	<p>La Province s'est fermement engagée à favoriser le développement de lotissements pour chalets et d'emplacements de camping.</p> <p>De 2004-2005 à 2007-2008, le gouvernement a apporté un total de 672 améliorations en matière de camping.</p>	<p>Pour plus d'information sur les possibilités de loisirs des Manitobains et des Manitobaines, veuillez vous référer aux pages 66 du rapport</p>

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
	chalets et des terrains de camping, y compris la présence des touristes. Pour les Manitobains et Manitobaines, l'augmentation des loisirs en milieu sauvage contribue aussi à la qualité de vie et à la vie saine, puisqu'ils pratiquent la randonnée, le cyclisme, le canotage et la natation, des activités qui se pratiquent habituellement dans ce genre d'environnement.				

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
<p>La sécurité dans les parcs provinciaux, en calculant le nombre d'infractions à la <i>Loi sur les parcs provinciaux</i> en pourcentage du nombre de nuitées de camping. (Sont exclues les infractions relatives au stationnement ou aux permis d'accès aux parcs.)</p>	<p>Les utilisateurs des parcs provinciaux s'attendent à fréquenter un milieu sécuritaire. Il est important d'assurer la sécurité des parcs pour que toute la population puisse les utiliser et en profiter.</p> <p>Le nombre d'infractions à la <i>Loi sur les parcs provinciaux</i> en pourcentage du nombre de nuitées donne une indication d'ensemble des menaces à la sécurité dans les parcs sous forme de pourcentage des activités comparatives indirectes dans les terrains de camping.</p>	<p>Pour cet indicateur, le point de référence est le nombre total d'infractions enregistrées en 2000-2001, soit 615, ce qui représente 0,30 % des 206 838 nuitées.</p>	<p>En 2007-2008, on a enregistré un total de 452 infractions, ce qui représente 0,20 % des 226 107 nuitées.</p>	<p>En passant d'un maximum de 0,30 % en 2000-2001 à 0,20 % en 2007-2008, le nombre d'infractions a chuté au cours des 8 dernières années. Bien que la tendance indique qu'un grand nombre de nuitées se passent sans incident, cette mesure n'indique pas la gravité de chaque incident. Le Ministère rendra compte des degrés de gravité des incidents et des degrés de satisfaction des clients dans l'avenir.</p>	<p>Pour plus d'information sur la sécurité dans les parcs, veuillez vous référer aux pages 28 du rapport.</p>

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
La qualité de la coexistence des humains et de la faune, en calculant le nombre d'incidents où des animaux sauvages causent des dégâts, par type d'animal.	Il est important de s'attarder à la gestion des animaux sauvages qui causent des dégâts parce que les incidents peuvent avoir des répercussions sur la sécurité des personnes, des propriétés privées et des installations publiques.	Pour cet indicateur, le point de référence est l'année 2000-2001, où l'on a enregistré un total de 3 205 incidents. Ces incidents ont été répartis comme suit : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ours noirs - 1 311</li><li>• ours polaires - 169</li><li>• castors - 303</li><li>• gros gibier - 762</li><li>• loups - 179</li><li>• oiseaux migrateurs - 481.</li></ul>	En 2007-2008, on a enregistré un total de 2 580 incidents d'animaux sauvages ayant causé des dégâts. Ils ont été répartis comme suit : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ours noirs - 1 398</li><li>• ours polaires - 246</li><li>• castors - 168</li><li>• gros gibier - 219</li><li>• loups - 231</li><li>• oiseaux migrateurs - 318.</li></ul>	Le nombre d'incidents mettant en cause les principales catégories d'animaux sauvages est demeuré relativement stable au cours des 8 dernières années, à l'exception des incidents avec les rats laveurs dans des zones urbaines comme Winnipeg où leur population a connu une croissance soutenue. Le nombre d'incidents reflète le niveau de perturbation lié à la coexistence des êtres humains et des animaux dans la nature. Les variations peuvent découler des conditions environnementales ou météorologiques ainsi que de la réaction du Ministère et du public aux incidents signalés. Dans certains cas, les êtres humains contribuent au problème en nourrissant	En mai 2006, on a lancé l'initiative Gare aux ours qui comprend ce qui suit : des panneaux routiers, des brochures, des feuilles de renseignements, une campagne d'information et des ateliers communautaires gratuits en vue de protéger les humains, de limiter au maximum les dommages aux propriétés, aux récoltes et au bétail, et de maintenir une population d'ours en santé. En 2007-2008, le nombre de plaintes relatives aux ours a été inférieur à la moyenne des 13 dernières années. Le Ministère a conclu des ententes avec la Manitoba Trappers Association afin que les trappeurs offrent des services d'élimination des

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
				délibérément des animaux sauvages tels que les chevreuils.	prédateurs. Le Ministère a également mis en oeuvre un programme de gestion des castors pour réduire les pertes causées par leurs activités et un programme d'installation de clôtures pour réduire les dommages causés de manière chronique par les orignaux, les chevreuils et les dindons sauvages sur divers sites. La gestion des chevreuils dans les zones urbaines telles que Winnipeg et d'autres centres est devenue une préoccupation importante, tout comme les collisions avec des animaux sauvages. Le Ministère a développé des sites Web pour informer le public des questions de coexistence avec les coyotes, les chevreuils, les rats

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
					<p>laveurs et les outardes.</p> <p>Pour plus d'information sur le programme de gestion des animaux qui causent des dégâts, veuillez vous référer aux pages 90 du rapport.</p>

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
<p>La sécurité des collectivités et la continuation du développement économique lié à la foresterie dans les régions forestières à haute priorité, en calculant le nombre d'hectares de forêt brûlés dans les régions de la « zone rouge », en pourcentage de la superficie totale qui a brûlé dans la province (ou en pourcentage de la superficie totale de la zone).</p> <p>La « zone rouge » est la zone forestière qui a la plus grande priorité.</p>	<p>La protection des personnes, des biens et des régions forestières environnantes contribue à la viabilité des collectivités de ces régions, qui sont principalement situées dans le Nord.</p>	<p>Pour cet indicateur, le point de référence est l'année 2000-2001, lorsque 0,23 % de la superficie de la zone forestière ayant la plus haute priorité en matière de protection (zone rouge) a brûlé.</p>	<p>En 2007-2008, 0,066 % de la superficie de la zone forestière ayant la plus haute priorité en matière de protection (zone rouge) a brûlé.</p>	<p>Il n'existe pas de tendance bien définie pour cette mesure parce que le risque varie énormément d'une année à l'autre.</p> <p>Le risque de feux de forêt varie d'année en année, principalement en raison des conditions météorologiques. Même si les causes principales des feux de forêt sont notamment les activités humaines et la foudre, la gravité et les conséquences des incendies dépendent principalement des conditions du moment (degré de sécheresse ou d'humidité).</p> <p>Le Ministère utilise un processus d'intervention initiale pour établir la priorité des attaques précoce dans les régions les plus vulnérables et</p>	<p>Pour plus d'information sur le Programme de prévention des incendies, veuillez vous référer aux pages 47 du rapport.</p>

Que mesure-t-on et quel indicateur utilise-t-on? (A)	Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)	Quel est le point de départ (point de référence)? (C)	Quel est le résultat pour 2007-2008 (année courante) ou la valeur la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (D)	Quelle a été la tendance de cet indicateur au cours des ans? (E)	Commentaires / mesures récentes / liens avec le rapport (F)
				ayant la plus haute priorité, afin de limiter le plus possible les conséquences des feux de forêt.	

# The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

*The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* came into effect in April 2007. This law gives employees a clear process for disclosing concerns about significant and serious matters (wrongdoing) in the Manitoba public service, and strengthens protection from reprisal. The Act builds on protections already in place under other statutes, as well as collective bargaining rights, policies, practices and processes in the Manitoba public service.

Wrongdoing under the Act may be: contravention of federal or provincial legislation; an act of omission that endangers public safety, public health or the environment; gross mismanagement; or, knowingly directing or counseling a person to commit a wrongdoing. The Act is not intended to deal with routine operational or administrative matters.

A disclosure made by an employee in good faith, in accordance with the Act, and with a reasonable belief that wrongdoing has been or is about to be committed is considered to be a disclosure under the Act, whether or not the subject matter constitutes wrongdoing. All disclosures receive careful and thorough review to determine if action is required under the Act, and must be reported in a department's annual report in accordance with Section 18 of the Act.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by Manitoba Conservation and Pineland Forest Nursery for fiscal year 2007-2008.

Information Required Annually (per Section 18 of The Act)	Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008
The number of disclosures received and the number acted on and not acted <i>Subsection 18(2)(a)</i>	<b>NIL</b>
The number of investigations commenced as a result of a disclosure. <i>Subsection 18(2)(b)</i>	<b>NIL</b>
In the case of an investigation that results in a finding of wrongdoing, a description of the wrongdoing and any recommendations or corrective actions taken in relation to the wrongdoing, or the reasons why no corrective action was taken. <i>Subsection 18(2)(c)</i>	<b>NIL</b>

# Loi sur les divulgations faites dans l'intérêt public (protection des divulgateurs d'actes répréhensibles)

La *Loi sur les divulgations faites dans l'intérêt public (protection des divulgateurs d'actes répréhensibles)* est entrée en vigueur en avril 2007. Cette loi prévoit une démarche claire à suivre par les employés lorsqu'ils veulent communiquer leurs inquiétudes concernant certains actes répréhensibles graves commis dans la fonction publique, et protège également les divulgateurs contre les représailles. La *Loi* vient s'ajouter à d'autres mesures de protection déjà en place en vertu d'autres lois ainsi qu'aux droits issus d'une négociation collective, de politiques, de pratiques ou de processus en vigueur dans la fonction publique du Manitoba.

Les actes suivants sont considérés comme répréhensibles en vertu de la *Loi*: infractions aux lois fédérales ou provinciales; actions ou omissions causant un risque pour la sécurité ou la santé du public ou pour l'environnement; cas graves de mauvaise gestion ou le fait de sciemment ordonner ou conseiller à une personne de commettre un acte répréhensible. La *Loi* n'a pas pour objet de traiter des questions courantes de fonctionnement ou d'administration.

Une divulgation faite de bonne foi, conformément à la *Loi*, par un employé qui a des motifs raisonnables de croire qu'un acte répréhensible a été commis ou est sur le point de l'être, est considérée une divulgation en vertu de la *Loi*, peu importe si l'objet de la divulgation constitue un acte répréhensible. Toutes les divulgations font l'objet d'un examen attentif et approfondi en vue de déterminer si des mesures s'imposent en vertu de la *Loi*, et elles doivent être signalées dans le rapport annuel du ministère, conformément à l'article 18 de la *Loi*.

Vous trouverez ci-dessous un compte rendu des divulgations reçues par le ministère Conservation Manitoba et [nom des organismes spéciaux relevant de ce ministère] pour l'exercice 2007-2008:

Renseignements exigés annuellement (selon l'art. 18 de la <i>Loi</i> )	Exercice 2007 - 2008
Le nombre de divulgations reçues et le nombre de divulgations auxquelles il a été donné suite et auxquelles il n'a pas été donné suite. <i>Alinéa 18(2)a)</i>	NÉANT
Le nombre d'enquêtes ouvertes à la suite d'une divulgation. <i>Alinéa 18(2)b)</i>	NÉANT
Dans le cas où, par suite d'une enquête, il est conclu qu'un acte répréhensible a été commis, la description de l'acte en question ainsi que les recommandations faites ou les mesures correctives prises relativement à cet acte, ou les motifs invoqués pour ne pas en prendre. <i>Alinéa 18(2)c)</i>	NÉANT

# PUBLICATIONS

## Parks and Natural Areas

### Interpretive Publications

#### **EASTERN REGION**

Atikaki Interpretive Park Map  
Whiteshell Interpretive Park Map  
McGillivray Falls Self-guiding Trail  
Whiteshell River Self-guiding Trail  
Falcon Creek Self-guiding Trail and Activities  
Pine Point Self-guiding Trail  
Forester's Footsteps Self-guiding Trail  
The Petroforms of Manitoba  
Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary  
Nopiming Interpretive Park Map  
Walking on Ancient Mountains Self-guiding Trail  
Fire of 'Eighty-three Self-guiding Trail  
Old Pinawa Self-guiding Trail  
St. Malo Interpretive Park Map (bilingual)  
Tallgrass Parkland Self-guiding Trail (bilingual)

#### **CENTRAL REGION**

Birds Hill Interpretive Park Map  
Cedar Bog Self-guiding Trail (summer and winter versions)  
Nimowin Self-guiding Trail  
Pine Ridge Self-guiding Trail  
Duff Roblin Provincial Park (bilingual)  
Kennedy House (bilingual)  
Grand Beach Interpretive Park Map  
Ancient Beach Self-guiding Trail  
St. Norbert Interpretive Park Map (bilingual)  
Hecla/Grindstone Interpretive Park Map  
Hecla Village Self-guiding Trail  
Grassy Narrows Marsh Hiking and Cycling Trails  
Camp Morton Interpretive Park Map  
Pembina Valley Interpretive Park Map  
Beaudry Interpretive Park Map (bilingual)

#### **WESTERN REGION**

Asessippi Interpretive Park Map  
Spruce Woods Interpretive Park Map  
Isputinaw Self-guiding Trail  
Spirit Sands Self-guiding Trail / Devil's Punch bowl Hiking Trail  
Turtle Mountain Interpretive Park Map  
Wildlife Self-guiding Trail (Turtle Mountain)  
Duck Mountain Interpretive Park Map

Shining Stone Self-guiding Trail  
Wapiti Self-guiding Trail  
Kettle Stones

#### **NORTH-EASTERN REGION**

Paint Lake Interpretive Park Map

#### **NORTH-WESTERN REGION**

Grass River Interpretive Park Map  
Karst Spring Self-guiding Trail  
Clearwater Lake Interpretive Park Map  
Caves Self-guiding Trail

### Parks Publications

A Mountain Biking Adventure  
Beach Safety (bilingual)  
Beach Safety for groups (bilingual)  
The Camper's Guide (English and French versions)  
Canadian Heritage Rivers System - Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Workshop materials - May 2003  
Chitek Lake Park Reserve - Phase 1 public consultation brochure  
Duck Mountain Management Plan - Booklet  
Fall Camping in Manitoba  
Comfort Camping with Yurts and Cabins  
Group Use Areas (bilingual)  
Hayes River Education Kit - Teachers manual & CDROM  
Junior Naturalist and Park Explorer booklets  
Manitoba Provincial Parks Guide  
Parks Reservation Service  
Park Explorer and Junior Naturalist - Children's activity booklets  
Regular/Boundary Changes for Provincial Parks - Summary information  
Towards a Management Plan for the Hayes River - Summary of workshop comments  
Volunteer Campground Host Program  
Whiteshell Backcountry Map  
Whiteshell Winter Adventures

## **Corporate Services**

Manitoba Conservation: Career Guide

## **Operations**

Manitoba firearm accidents report : hunting and non-hunting  
Cottage & Country Fire Safety Checklist  
Homeowner's Firesmart Manual

## **Environmental Operations**

Wastewater Homeowners Manual Booklet  
Protect Manitoba's Water - Discover the advantages of using a holding tank to manage wastewater

## **Forestry**

Forintek Canada Corporation - Helping Manitoba's Forest Products Industry Add Value and Increase Productivity

## **Geographic Names**

Holm, G., Buchner, A., eds. **A Place of Honour: Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in Its Geography.** (also available in French)

## **Sustainable Resource Management**

Crown Land Classification Committee. Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans 2004

## **Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection**

Concentrations of Metals and Other Elements in Surface Soils of Flin Flon, Manitoba and Creighton, Saskatchewan, 2006. Manitoba Conservation. Report No. 2007-01, Winnipeg, MB. 64 pp.

Krause-Danielsen, A. Mixed-grass Prairie Inventory for Manitoba - 2007 update

Moore, J.R. 2007 Mixed-grass Prairie Inventory Project – Interview Summary.

Manitoba 2007 Hunting Guide

Trapping Guide 2007/08

Foster, C. 2008. Rare Plant Surveys and Stewardship Activities by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, 2007. MS Report 08-01. Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba. 35 pp.

Johnson, D.H., J.R. Duncan, D. Van Nieuwenhuyse, R.P. Kavanagh, and R.S. Leigh. 2007. Survey and Monitoring Manual for Owls of the World. Manual and CD distributed at World Owl Conference. Groningen, The Netherlands. 31 October 2007.

Wildlife – Five-Year Report (April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2007) 70 pp.

# LEGISLATION

**The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter C 205

**The Crown Lands Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter C 340

[sections 1 and 5, subsection 7.2(1), section 8, subsections 12(2), 13(1) and (2), 13.1(1), sections 19, 22 and 27 to 29; sections 4, 6 to 7.1, 10, 14, 16 to 18, 21, subsection 23(3), section 24, subsections 25(1) and (2) and sections 26 and 30 to 35 insofar as they relate to the administration of Crown lands not designated as agricultural Crown lands, including setting fees and rents and issuing work permits but excluding other dispositions]

**The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter D 12

**The Dutch Elm Disease Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter D 107

[To be repealed by SM 2007, c. 20, s. 35]

**The Ecological Reserves Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter E 5

**The Endangered Species Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter E 111

**The Environment Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter E 125

**The Forest Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter F 150

**The Forest Health Protection Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter F 151

**The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter H 15

**The International Peace Garden Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter I 70

**The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter N 30

[except as it relates to water and fisheries]

**The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter N 60

**The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, 1963**, C.C.S.M. chapter N 70

**The Ozone Depleting Substances Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter O 80

**The Provincial Parks Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter P 20

[except section 22 and clause 33(u) and the Debt Certificate Regulation, M.R. 140/96]

**The Plants Pests and Diseases Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter P 90

[that portion of clause 16(c) that pertains to arborists and clause 16(i)]

**The Polar Bear Protection Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter P 94

**The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter R 10

**The Resource Tourism Operators Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter R 119.5

**The Surveys Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter S 240

[Part II]

**The Sustainable Development Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter S 270

[except the Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund]

**The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter W 40

**The Wildfires Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter W 128

**The Wildlife Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter W 130

[except that portion of clause 89(e) that applies to compensation for damage to crops caused by wildlife as it pertains to big game and migratory waterfowl]

**The Wild Rice Act**, C.C.S.M. chapter W 140

[except subsections 10(1) and 11(1)]

As per Schedule "E", Order in Council No. 44/2008

